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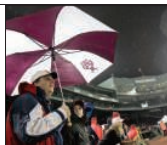
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2004

In Iraq, U.S. treats all patients equally

Military nurses struggle between fear and duty
when administering care to war wounded Page 4



Maj. Patricia Born works in the emergency room at the Army's Ibn Sina Hospital in Baghdad. When the nurse sees both Iraqi and American casualties following a bombing or gunfire exchange, there's no way to tell who was injured how — the Iraqis could be either bystanders or insurgents.

WARD SANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

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Your Hometown Newspaper

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Moore TV election special: A cable pay-per-view company has decided not to show a three-hour election eve special with filmmaker Michael Moore that included a showing of his documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11," which is sharply critical of President Bush.

The company, IN DEMAND, said Friday that its decision is due to "legitimate business and legal concerns." A spokesman would not elaborate.

Earlier this week, trade publications said Moore was close to a deal with IN DEMAND for "The Michael Moore Pre-Election Special," which also would include interviews with politically active celebrities and admonitions to vote. The Nov. 1 special was to be available for \$9.95.

Moore said Friday he signed a contract with the company in early September and is considering legal action. He said he believes IN DEMAND decided not to air the film because of pressure from "top Republican people."

Chicago bus crash: The bus involved in a fatal accident in Arkansas last weekend had extensive repairs made to its roof and body after an incident south of Chicago two years ago, federal authorities said Friday.

Gary Van Etten, the National Transportation Safety Board's lead investigator, would not describe details of the incident. He said it was not yet known whether the damage played any role in the Oct. 9 crash, which killed 14 people and injured 16.

NTSB officials previously said they were looking into why sheet metal had been glued and riveted to the bus' roof, adding 600 to 700 pounds to the vehicle's weight.

NASA crash landing: The NASA spacecraft that smashed into the Utah desert last month while bringing home fragile samples of the sun may have been doomed by engineering drawings that had been done backwards, an investigating board said Friday.

Because of the backward drawings, the switches that were supposed to detect Genesis' re-entry into Earth's atmosphere and trigger its parachutes were placed incorrectly, said Michael G. Ryschewitsch, chairman of the Mishap Investigation Board.

He emphasized, however, that the panel has not completed its findings on what went wrong with the \$264 million mission to capture particles of the solar wind.

The design drawings were produced by Lockheed Martin Astronautics, which built Genesis for NASA, Ryschewitsch said. How the mistake escaped detection is under investigation, he said.

Tagged shark: A great white shark that was tagged with a data-gathering device in shallow waters off Cape Cod has apparently reclaimed its privacy.

Researchers attached the device to the 14-foot, 1,700-pound female shark's dorsal fin on Sept. 23 using a six-foot spear. Gregory Skomal, Division of Marine Fisheries shark specialist, said it appeared the device became detached shortly after the fish was coaxed to open water Oct. 4.

It was the first time a great white has been tagged that way in the Atlantic, and shark experts had been excited about the prospective data, because very little is known about great whites' behavior in the Atlantic, the Cape Cod Times reported.



Albanian bus crash: Members of the Kosovo Protection Corps stand guard in front of the coffins of 15 Albanian high school students Saturday during their funeral in the central Kosovo town of Malisevo. Tens of thousands of mourners participated in the funeral for the students, who were killed in a bus crash that sent their vehicle tumbling over a cliff.

Michael Jackson legal shake-up: An attorney who has represented Michael Jackson for more than a decade has left the pop star's defense team, Jackson announced Friday.

Steve Cochran took a "temporary leave of absence" from the team defending Jackson from child molestation charges but will continue to "collaborate" with lead attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr., Jackson said.

CIA identity leak: President Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove, testified for more than two hours Friday before a grand jury considering charges stemming from the investigation of the leak of a CIA agent's identity to the news media, White House officials said.

Rove is the latest White House aide called before the grand jury, which is considering whether to bring charges against a former official for releasing the name of the CIA agent, Valerie Plame, to journalist Robert Novak.

Martha Stewart in jail: Martha Stewart said on Friday that she has adjusted to prison life and is keeping busy behind bars since reporting a week ago to a federal penal camp in West Virginia, where she is serving a five-month sentence for lying about a stock sale.

The celebrity homemaker said she was touched by the outpouring of support she has received from millions of people who have visited her Web site, according to a letter posted by Stewart on www.martha-talks.com.

Libel lawsuit: The New York Times asked a federal judge Friday to dismiss a libel lawsuit against the paper filed by a bioterrorism expert named by the FBI as a "person of interest" in the 2001 anthrax attacks.

Times attorney David Schulz told the judge that no reasonable reader would walk

away from the columns in question with the impression that the newspaper was accusing Steven J. Hatfill of any crimes.

Business

Tyco lawsuit: A federal judge in Concord, N.H., says shareholders can go ahead with a class action suit against Tyco International.

The suit alleges accounting fraud and looting by former top executives. Shareholders are seeking damages from Tyco, former CEO Dennis Kozlowski, former chief financial officer Mark Swartz, and Tyco's former auditors, Price-Waterhouse-Coopers.

Kozlowski and Swartz are awaiting retrial in federal court in New York on charges of stealing \$600 million from the company.

War on terrorism

Prison abuse scandal: An Army reservist charged with abusing Iraqis at the Abu Ghraib prison will plead guilty to four offenses in Baghdad, his lawyer said Friday, making him the second soldier to plead guilty in the scandal.

Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick, 38, on Wednesday will admit to assault, mistreating a detainee, committing an indecent act and dereliction of duty, Gary Myers said in a telephone interview from his home in New Hampshire. Eight other counts Frederick faces stemming from alleged abuses of Abu Ghraib detainees will be dropped, Myers said.

World

Fujimori extradition battle: Peru's ambassador to Japan expressed hope Saturday that Japan will extradite disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori to face murder and embezzlement charges. Fujimori, meanwhile, said Lima's requests for custody showed he was a victim of "political persecution."

Fujimori has been in self exile in Japan since fleeing his homeland in November 2000 as his government crumbled amid a corruption scandal. Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, has been shielded from extradition by Japanese citizenship granted to him after his arrival.

Indonesian terror investigation: A man who fled after he was injured in a small explosion in a house on Indonesia's Java island has links to the suicide bomber in last month's Australian Embassy blast, a top detective said Saturday.

Police are searching for an 18-year-old they called Abdullah, who allegedly kept in contact with Herti Golum — a man identified by DNA testing and a suicide letter he left for his family before the Sept. 9 car bombing that killed nine people outside the embassy in Jakarta.

North Korean refugees: A group of 20 people who claimed to be North Koreans entered the grounds of the South Korean consulate in Beijing on Friday in a bid to seek asylum, news reports said.

The group of six males and 14 females entered the consulate around 6 a.m., said YTN, an all-news cable channel, and other South Korean news media.

YTN footage showed the intruders crawling under a barbed-wire perimeter fence at pre-dawn dusk. They then climbed over a wall topped with barbed wire into the consulate compound.

Officials at South Korea's Foreign Ministry declined to confirm the report, but said there would be an official announcement later. Officials in Beijing were not immediately available for comment.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Car bombs kill 4 GIs; insurgents hit churches

BY TINI TRAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Explosions hit five Christian churches in Baghdad on Saturday and the U.S. command said four more American troops were killed by car bombs as violence flared as Iraqi Muslims began marking the holy month of Ramadan.

Mortar shells exploded Saturday near Ibn al-Betar hospital, killing one employee and wounding three others, and in the parking lot of the Mansour Hotel, which houses the Chinese embassy and is home to foreign diplomats and journalists. No one was killed in the hotel attack.

Homemade bombs exploded in quick succession before dawn Saturday at the five churches in four separate neighborhoods, causing no casualties but further alarming the Christian minority community already on edge over the perceived rise of Islamic militancy following last year's ouster of Saddam Hussein.

In August, coordinated attacks hit four churches in Baghdad and one in Mosul, killing at least 12 people and wounding dozens more in the first significant strike against Iraq's estimated 800,000 Christians since the U.S. invasion began last year.

"It is a criminal act to make Iraq unstable and to create religious difficulties," Rev. Zaya Yousef of St. George's Church said of the latest attacks. "But this will not happen because we all live together like brothers in this country through sadness and happiness."

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, which were condemned by the Association of Muslim Scholars, a Sunni clerical group believed to have ties to some insurgents.

"Islam doesn't support the ongoing terrorism," Sheikh Abdul-Sattar Abdul-Jabbar of the association said.

Three U.S. troops — two soldiers and one Marine — were killed Friday when a car bomb exploded near Qaim, an insurgent hotspot along the Syrian border, the U.S. command said. One Iraqi interpreter was also killed.



A U.S. soldier looks at a piece of shrapnel after a mortar round hit the parking lot of the al-Mansour Hotel in Baghdad on Saturday where some foreign journalists and diplomats stay.

A fourth soldier, assigned to Task Force Olympia, died of injuries suffered Friday during a car bombing in the northern city of Mosul, 225 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. command said Saturday.

U.S. commanders have warned of a possible resurgence in rebel attacks during Ramadan, when insurgent activity surged last year. Ramadan, the month of fasting and prayer, is marked by greater religious fervor, and some extremists believe they will use a special place in paradise if they die fighting non-Muslims during the holy month.

In hopes of preventing rebel attacks, U.S. troops have stepped up military operations in Sunni areas north and west of the capital. The operations included two days of air and ground attacks Thursday and Friday against the main rebel bastion Fallujah.

Fallujah seeks to resume peace talks

The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — A Fallujah delegation offered Saturday to resume peace talks with the government if the United States ceases attacks against the city and releases the chief negotiator.

"We are ready to resume talks," delegation member Khaled Fakhr al-Jumaili told reporters. "We suspended the talks because we felt that the Iraqi government, especially Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, was meeting the demands of the Americans."

He said that if attacks and airstrikes stop, "we are ready to return to the negotiating table."

Sheik Abdul Hamid Jadou, another delegation member, added that the delegation also wanted its chairman, Khaled al-Jumaili, freed. Witnesses said he was arrested by the Americans on Friday after prayers at a village south of Fallujah.

Talks between Iraqi officials and Fallujah clerics had been underway for weeks to restore government control in the insurgent stronghold 40 miles west of Baghdad.

The talks broke down Thursday over the government's demands that the city hand over Jordanian-born terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whom the Fallujah leadership maintains is not in the city.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,086 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 830 died as a result of hostile action and 256 died of non-hostile causes.

The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two, the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 948 U.S. military members have died — 721 as a result of hostile action and 227 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Ronald W. Baker, 34, Cabot, Ark.; died Wednesday in Landstuhl, Germany, of injuries received from a car bomb Oct. 7 in Taji, Iraq; assigned to the 39th Support Battalion, Arkansas National Guard, Lonoke, Ark.

■ Army Spc. Jeremy F. Resnier, 22, Littleton, N.H.; died Wednesday in Baghdad, when an explosive detonated near his patrol; assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Mosul rebels kidnap 2 Turks

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A group identifying itself as the Islamic Brigade in Mosul claimed to have kidnapped two Turkish drivers on a highway near Mosul, the group said in a video released Saturday.

A compact disc issued by the group had a video showing two men sitting on the floor with three masked and armed men behind them.

The disc was received by the Associated Press on Saturday.

One of the kidnappers said the Turkish government must order the company where the two men worked to leave Iraq or they will be killed.

One of the men shown was large and bald with a gray beard. The other man was short and compact with gray hair.

Both appear to be in their 40s.

A written statement issued with the disc said the two men would be killed within 72 hours of the video being broadcast.

Insurgents in Iraq have kidnapped more than 150 foreigners in their campaign to drive out coalition forces and hamper reconstruction.

Most have been kidnapped for ransom and freed unharmed, but at least 30 have been killed by their abductors, including six Turks — the most recent, a truck driver beheaded in a video released Thursday.

Italy may cut force, defense minister says

The Associated Press

ROME — Italy's defense minister on Saturday said coalition forces in Iraq could be "gradually" reduced after January elections there if Iraqi troops and police can keep the country stable.

"We have an Iraqi government which, after the January elections, will have full democratic legitimacy," Defense Minister Antonio Martino said in an interview on Sky TG24 TV.

Noting that Italian forces helped train Iraqi soldiers and police, Martino added, "If the Iraqis can handle stability by themselves, gradually, first the visibility, then the presence of the coalition will be reduced."

Sky only broadcast excerpts of the interview, which will be shown in its entirety on Sunday.

Italy, with some 3,000 troops in Iraq, is one of the biggest contributors to the U.S.-led military contingent there.

Martino's comments followed on those earlier this month by Italian Deputy Premier Gianfranco Fini, who said it will take security and a stable political

system — not just elections — before Italian troops will be able to withdraw from Iraq.

Neither Martino, in his comments shown on Saturday, or Fini, in his remarks in Cairo, Egypt, early this month, gave any timetable.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's conservative government is a staunch U.S. ally.

Italy sent troops as part of reconstruction efforts.

At first, Fini had suggested that Italian troops might leave soon after the January balloting, but later he made clear their return to Italy wasn't imminent.

The Italian government has come under pressure at home to wrap up its involvement in

Iraq. The kidnapping of two Italian women by Islamic militants also put pressure on the government. The women were released Sept. 28 after three weeks in captivity.



Berlusconi

Even at war, nurses governed by humanity

Hospitals care for troops and Iraqis who injured them

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — The light was the sad blue-green that kept his protruding intestines from drying out. Sundem smiled through it toward Mohammed.

Mohammed was wrapped in yellow plastic that kept his protruding intestines from drying out. Sundem seemed sunny despite the pallid light.

Chumpily, she asked Mohammed if he were her friend. He weakly shook his head no. Would he be her friend if she gave him water? Yes. That he would do.

Mohammed had blown a hole in his belly trying to build a bomb to kill U.S. soldiers.

"It went off in his face," Sundem said. "It was really a bad day for him."

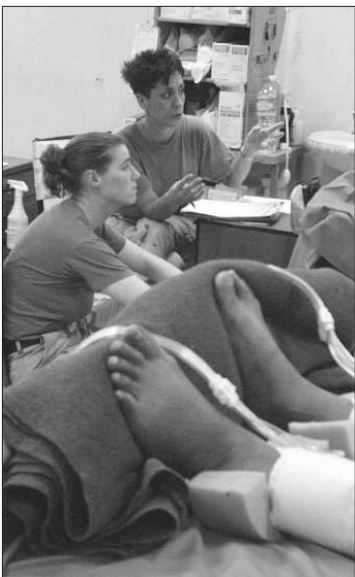
This is normal for the nurses of Ibn Sina Hospital, once Saddam Hussein's private center and now the Army's busy facility in Baghdad. Caring for American troops and the insurgents with whom they fight drains nurses and twists their insides around like gauze.

They must treat all patients the same.

The most severely injured must be treated first, regardless of nationality. The nurses work 12 hours a day, six days a week. And some struggle with fears that time spent mending enemies might deplete energy they could use to heal their own soldiers.

Nurses who work exclusively with prisoners rotate to the GI ward after six months; it's just too much. Nurses in the emergency room and intensive care unit see all patients before they've even been sorted into bad guy or good. Sundem tries to stabilize patients before they can go home, to prison or to another hospital. Sometimes she sends terminal soldiers back to Germany, and there they will die. But at least they will see their families one last time.

To cope with the insurgents behind that, Sundem focuses on the Golden Rule and on her husband, a Ranger deployed to the Middle



East six times since Sept. 11, 2001. She hoped a nurse would take care of him were he ever captured.

She looked at Mohammed, the failed bomber. She said he, too, could be someone's father, someone's husband.

"I've been a nurse for 14 years, and I've never seen the devastation that I've seen here," Sundem said. "It's a downer. It's literally man's inhumanity to man. It's war."

Down the hall padded the small feet of another local, Dihar Al-jazzy, 5, struggled behind her walk-

er. She moved slowly but she did not strain.

"You're doing so good," Capt. Leslie Goodwin said, waving a floppy dolly in front of the girl.

Bandits shot Dihar in the back seven months ago.

"The doctors here, they made this little kid walk," said her grandmother, Jammala, draped in black. "... You people are helping us a lot. You deserve more gratitude from our side. We haven't seen help from anyone else. We wish you were here five, 10, 20 years ago."

Nurse Goodwin has seen other sentiments.

Children have made bombs and acted as decoys for insurgents. In the hospital, "They seem so passive. And here you were, making a bomb."

Ramadan is beginning, and the nurses are worried. Any special date could bring more bombs, more bullets, more business.

Maj. Patricia Born, acting head nurse in the emergency room, treats troops and locals just off the streets of urban warfare. When they arrive she doesn't know who locals are and how they were hurt.

"I think it's difficult because we see a lot of mortal injuries, and people who will be disabled, soldiers and Marines," she said. "I didn't know how I'd respond to seeing the person who shot them." Others are locals injured in the crossfire.

Some of the Iraqi injured who later turn out to be insurgents come in looking angry and hard. The eyes of the young, though, go wide with fear.



PHOTOS BY WARD SANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Above: Capt. Leslie Goodwin, an intensive care nurse at the Army hospital in Baghdad, helps Dihar Al-jazzy, 5, learn to walk again after bandits shot her in the back. Her grandmother, Jammala, center, says Americans "deserve more gratitude from our side." Left: Nurses 1st Lt. Jill Schroeder, left, and Capt. Batina Sundem discuss the care of their patient, an insurgent whose homemade bomb blew up in his hands.

"They come as young as 9 years old," said Born, who is 57 and a grandmother.

Other children may be members of Iraqi families who drove through military checkpoints and were shot by soldiers fearing suicide bombers.

On a busy day, emergency nurses must treat the queued injured in the hallway.

"Sometimes," Born said, "it's overwhelming."

Though their mission is to treat everyone the same, feeling the same about everyone is not easy. If patients survive the ER they may see Spc. Steve Hodgkins, who works in intensive care.

After a few moments, Hodgkins' voice loses its clinical detachment and takes on an aching note of conflict over the cost of being so humane.

"When it comes to taking care of insurgents, bad guys, I think I'm part of the process that returns them to what doing whatever they were doing," he said.

He's heard stories of insurgents recovering, somehow being released, then winding up attacking troops again. Some bite, spit and throw containers of urine at nurses.

Other times, an insurgent does a 180, telling Hodgkins he now loves America, he can't believe how well they treated him here, he's so sorry.

Hodgkins, who often lowered his eyes as he spoke, nonetheless fears the following scenario: He spends several units of a type of blood trying to save an Iraqi who dies anyway. Then a GI comes in, needing 12 units of that same type. Only 10 remain.

This evokes Hodgkins' memory of the shattered soldier who, after being bombed, needed not shrapnel removed from his arm, but shards of bone that were once his friend.

This can harden a man. Then Hodgkins will treat an Iraqi child who witnessed his parents machine-gunned to death, and he melts again. Or he remembers the thief shot while robbing a mosque, and how the thief was relieved to discover the object of surgery was to fix his wounded

leg, not to cut off his hand. These feelings clash. They don't compute.

"I try not to think about it that much," Hodgkins said, "because I'm a good nurse, and I will not compromise my humanity."

Capt. Laura Ricardo, who wears hats from spokeswoman to clinic head nurse, said she could relate. She's held a broken soldier's hand and felt anger toward those who hurt him. Then she asked herself, what if I were born poor and in Baghdad? How would I behave? What would I believe?

"That person is just as important in God's eyes," Ricardo decided.

The nurses, though, are tired.

"You can't go full-tilt, boogie-woogie, six days a week and not burn out," Hodgkins said.

An officer agreed.

"Just about every day we were holding an American who was dying," said 1st Lt. Jill Schroeder, sniffling as she remembered April, when the fighting was especially terrible.

Recently an insurgent complained that Schroeder hadn't fanned him enough in the heat. She said she treats three or four Iraqis for every American.

"They shouldn't be here," she said of the locals. "They should go to the Iraqi hospital. Granted, it's crap."

Everyone wants to be treated by the Americans, she said. But after nearly a year here, the healers who treat insurgents like Mohammed, the failed bomber, may need healing themselves. The pain of the heart is less apparent than that of an opened belly, but it aches all the same.

"All of us are sick," Schroeder, said, voice breaking. "In the past 21 days, I've had two days off. For a nurse, that's no more."

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Maj. Phil Spinella, a doctor, and Capt. Lisa Breece, a nurse, care for an injured Iraqi baby at the Army's Ibn Sina Hospital in Baghdad.

GIs investigated for refusing Iraq mission

Company in stand-down after 19 reserve soldiers do not report for fueling convoy at Tallil Air Base

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Army investigators are trying to determine why 19 soldiers from a fuel platoon failed to appear for a convoy mission Wednesday at Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq.

According to an Army report, some members of the 343rd Quartermaster Company, refused to participate in the morning convoy. Relatives of the soldiers say they refused the mission because of safety concerns.

The company, a South Carolina-based reserve unit with members from several states, delivers fuel and water in tankers. Other soldiers from the company completed the mission hours later, according to an Army statement.

The supply route the soldiers were to have used is known as "Main Supply Route Tampa," according to an Associated Press report. Many soldiers have been wounded there by roadside bombs and rifle and rocket-propelled grenade fire, the AP reported.

The 343rd Quartermaster Company has come under fire but has

not suffered casualties since it arrived in March, according to Maj. Richard Spiegel, spokesman for the 13th Corps Support Command.

On Wednesday, 19 members of the platoon did not show up for a scheduled 7 a.m. meeting to prepare for a convoy mission a few hours later, according to the military statement.

A coalition spokesman in Baghdad told the AP that "a small number of the soldiers involved chose to express their concerns in an inappropriate manner, causing a temporary breakdown in discipline."

Army investigators led by 13th COSCOM deputy commander Col. Darrell Roll traveled to Tallil on Thursday to begin an investigation. It is not believed that 19 refused duty, Spiegel told Stars and Stripes. He could not discuss the details of the investigation until it is concluded.

The incident is also being investigated by the 300th Area Support Group, of which the 343rd is a part, for possible violations to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The soldiers have been asked to remain in their compound but

are not under arrest or detainment, Spiegel said. Some of the soldiers have been moved to new quarters, which is not unusual in an investigation, he added.

According to the military statement, "initial indication is that the soldiers scheduled for the convoy mission raised some valid concerns and the command is addressing them."

Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, 13th COSCOM commander, directed the company to complete a safety and maintenance stand-down after the incident to check all vehicles and conduct retraining. No other details about it were available Saturday.

Spiegel said investigators will look at whether the soldiers who did not appear for duty actually refused the mission.

"We don't know if, or how many, people did this," he said.

All of the soldiers have been accounted for and the investigation is continuing.

Other units will take over fuel delivery while the 343rd is in its stand-down. Every day, 13th COSCOM has 250 to 300 convoys on Iraqi roads, Spiegel said.

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Relatives: Safety concerns prompted soldiers' refusal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Relatives of soldiers who failed to report for a mission to deliver supplies in Iraq say the troops considered the mission too dangerous, in part because their vehicles were in poor shape.

The Army is investigating up to 19 reserve members of a platoon that is part of the 343rd Quartermaster Company, based in Rock Hill, S.C. The unit delivers food, water and fuel on trucks in combat zones.

Teresa Hill of Dothan, Ala., who said her daughter, Amber McClenny, was among those in the platoon, received a phone message from her son Thursday morning saying they had been detained by U.S. military authorities.

"This is a real, real, big emergency," McClenny said in her message. "I need you to call someone. I mean, raise pure hell."

McClenny said in her message that her platoon had refused to go on a fuel-hauling convoy to Taji, north of Baghdad.

"We had broken-down trucks, nonarmored vehicles and, um, we were carrying contaminated fuel. They are holding us against our will. We are now prisoners," she said.

Hill said she was later contacted by Spc. Tammy Reese in Iraq, who was calling the families.

"She told me [Amber] was being held in a tent with armed guards," said Hill, who spoke with her daughter Friday afternoon after her release. Her daughter said they are facing punishment ranging from a reprimand to a charge of mutiny.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Stokes, a 37-year-old chemical engineer from Clarksville, Tenn., went to Iraq with the 343rd but had to come home because of an injury. He said reservists were given inferior equipment and tensions in the company had been building since they were deployed in February.

"It wasn't really safe," he said. "The vehicles are not all that up to par anyway. The armor that they have is homemade. It's not really armor. It's like little steel rails."

Troops stage assaults on insurgents in Afghanistan

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

ASADABAD, Afghanistan — Forces at Firebase Asadabad launched several operations Friday aimed at extending their dominance to an area where intelligence reports indicate there are high concentrations of Taliban fighters and other insurgents.

Helicopters from Bagram Airfield inserted about 60 soldiers for an air assault into the mountains near the contested Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Special Forces soldiers and Marines launched operations into northern Nuristan Province and into Nuristan Province, according to U.S. officials.

The area where 82nd Airborne Division troops were headed — a hilltop about 8,000 feet into the mountains south of Asadabad — is where a small U.S. Marine Corps force had several major firefights with insurgents in September, said Capt. Brian Feddeler, commander of Company D commander, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"A month ago, the Marines went in there and got shot up," Feddeler said. The Marines went to the insurgent stronghold to try to stop rocket attacks that, at the time, were hitting Firebase Asadabad nearly every day. Such attacks



Soldiers with the 82nd Airborne Division get on a CH-47 Chinook on their way to an air assault Friday. Helicopters inserted the soldiers onto a hilltop 8,000 feet into the mountains near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

now are infrequent, and his soldiers' mission is to hunt down insurgents in an effort to ensure they stay that way, Feddeler said.

The air assault force was drawn from 1,505 soldiers, National Guard and 25th Infantry Division soldiers attached to the Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team, one of 17 teams located across Afghanistan.

The air assault was both a show of force and a search for insurgent rockets, Feddeler said. In addition, Civil Affairs soldiers from the PRT planned to assess two isolated villages, one of which intelligence

reports indicate is controlled by insurgents' PRT officers said.

Soldiers from the 82nd were sent to Afghanistan in late September to augment security for the Oct. 9 elections, which were far more peaceful than expected.

Now, the 82nd is using its rapid-deployment capabilities to help PRT and Special Forces teams eradicate enemy fighters.

"We want to show the enemy force we have the capability to insert troops anywhere," Feddeler said. "That's something that's on their minds... that we can show up anywhere, anytime."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@stpsrps.osd.mil

Injured Marine, new quintuplets all faring well

The Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — A Marine who became the father of quintuplets just days after he was badly wounded in Iraq is recovering and will be united with his expanded family in a few weeks, his mother and his doctor said Friday.

The babies, meanwhile, are doing well and passed their critical first 72 hours with no serious difficulties.

Marine reservist Sgt. Joshua Horton was scheduled to undergo surgery Friday afternoon, the latest in a series of operations to repair damage from shrapnel from an Oct. 7 explosion south of Baghdad.

As Horton arrived for treatment at the National Naval Medical Center on Monday, his wife was giving birth at a hospital in Naperville, Ill. Horton was heavily sedated at the time, and did not learn of the babies' births until Wednesday.

He has since watched a video of the babies, said their mother, Taunacy Horton.

"He was deeply moved and reached out to touch the TV screen with his hand," she said, fighting back tears. She said he hoped to be well enough to be at Edward Hospital when they can hold the infants for the first time. Doctors didn't say how soon that might be.

The three girls and two boys already have their own personalities, their mother proudly displaying the plastic bands of all five infants around her wrist.

The babies, born at less than 2 pounds each, are in critical but stable condition. Their mother was released from the hospital Friday.

Horton's mother, Lauchlan Jones, said she hoped Horton could be discharged with two or three weeks so he could see his new babies, his wife and their two older children.

Poll: Troops have doubts on Iraq strategy

Majority say war effort understaffed but oppose draft

By WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Members of the U.S. military and their families say the Bush administration underestimated the number of troops needed in Iraq and put too much pressure on inadequately trained National Guard and reserve forces, according to a poll released Saturday.

The National Annenberg Election Survey found that 62 percent in the military sample said the administration didn't send an adequate number of troops to Iraq. And 59 percent said too much of a burden has been put on the National Guard and the reserves when regular forces should have been expanded instead.

Family members were more critical of the administration's Iraq policy than those on active duty.

This critical view comes from a military group that has a more favorable view of President Bush, Iraq, the economy and the nation's direction than Americans in general.

A slight majority of the military and families, 51 percent, said showing photos of flag-draped coffins being returned to the United States would increase respect for the troops.

The Pentagon has refused to release government photos of the coffins, saying it has begun enforcing a policy installed in 1991

intended to respect the privacy of the families of the dead soldiers.

On other military matters:

■ Four in 10, 42 percent, said gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military, and 50 percent said no. Family members narrowly supported the idea, while those in the active military opposed it.

■ One-fourth said the military draft should be reinstated, three-fourths said no. That is about the same level of opposition to the draft in the general population.

■ Six in 10 of the regular military in the sample said they were properly trained and equipped.

■ Only four in 10 of the Guard members and reservists questioned said they were properly trained and equipped.

■ The military sample overwhelmingly approved of the work of women in the armed forces. Three-fourths said they performed as well as the men they work with.

■ Eight in 10 said soldiers responsible for the Abu Ghraib prison abuse and their immediate commanders should be punished. Half said higher-level commanders should be punished and three in 10 said civilians in the Pentagon should be punished.

Snapshots send a message of 'sorry'

Americans opposed to war seek to show Iraqis another face of the States

By JIM FITZGERALD
The Associated Press

NYACK, N.Y. — More than 2,000 people opposing the war in Iraq, including the father of an American beheaded by terrorists, are sending Iraqi personal photos with protest messages to show "what Americans are really like."

The pictures, from all around the country, are meant to be a counterpoint to the infamous images of Americans abusing Iraqi prisoners. Each photo shows at least one sign, usually handmade.

Some specifically criticize U.S. actions in the war while others simply extend sympathy to Iraqi civilians.

"With deep shame, we apologize for the suffering our country has brought to the people of Iraq," says a banner in a photo showing 11 people in Vancouver, Wash. Three elderly people in Minneapolis declare, "All our children long for a new day."

Michael Berg, whose son Nicholas was executed last spring by an al-Qaida-affiliated group, holds a sign in his photo that says, "I am sorry and ashamed for the tremendous loss my government has caused the Iraqi people."

"I truly feel that what the United States government has done to the once-sovereign nation of Iraq is atrocious and shameful," he said in a phone interview. Berg,

whose opposition to the war predated his son's execution, will be in Washington on Wednesday when the project is formally unveiled by the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The peace group, which organized the project, said it wants Iraqis to know that most Americans were shocked by the photos of U.S. soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners and many regret a war being waged in their name.

A veterans' group, however, believes the project undercuts U.S. soldiers.

Jerry Newberry, spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said, "This type of thing only serves to undermine the effort and the sacrifice of our military in Iraq. These people on the face of it seem to have a political agenda... It implies that what we're attempting to do in Iraq is shameful."

The White House had no comment, spokesman Ken Lisausk said.

The project was sparked by Kaia Svien, a 57-year-old Minneapolis teacher, who said she was "just dumbstruck" when she saw the Abu Ghraib prison photos.

"It was the power of the photographs that brought home the message," Svien said. "So I thought, 'Can't we use photos in another way to respond to this and hope they will be as power-



FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION/AP

A group from St. Paul, Minn., pose in a photo submitted to the Fellowship of Reconciliation of Nyack, N.Y. The organization is heading up a project that sends snapshots to Iraq from people in the United States in an effort to show "what Americans are really like."

ful? Maybe we can show them what Americans are really like."

She took the idea to the Nyack-based Fellowship, a 90-year-old group with a history of pacifism and activism. Staffer Hossein Alizadeh made it a national project, asking local peace groups to spread the word.

About 400 pictures came in from more than 100 cities and towns.

Half of them are being burned onto CDs for distribution Wednesday to news media that reach Iraqis, said Fellowship spokeswoman Jennifer Hymen.

"We thought it would be great if we could speak as ordinary Americans to ordinary Iraqis," said Alizadeh. "Since the United States went in there, the Iraqis have seen nothing but violence, so they have a very negative opinion of Americans. We hope that after they see these photographs, they will pause for a second and think, 'At least we have a few

friends, there are people who care about what's happening.'"

He said that despite the signs in the pictures, the project is "not about condemning any government." Hymen said the peace group wants to stop the deaths of U.S. soldiers as well as Iraqis.

There is no official figure for the number of Iraqis killed, but some nongovernmental estimates range from 10,000 to 30,000. As of Friday, 1,086 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department.

Bruce Hawkins of Northampton, Mass., a retired physics professor who sent in a photo of 16 people in a Quaker meeting house, said, "The intent was to send a friendly message to people. We're not their enemies and they're not ours."

The sign in his photo says, in part: "We pray for the humane treatment of all prisoners and the

continuing healing of human hearts."

A group of 27 people stood for their portrait on the steps of St. Francis Xavier College Church in St. Louis after their weekly anti-war vigil. One of their signs says, in Arabic, "Our hearts are full of pain and sorrow for the Iraqi prisoners."

William Quick, a lawyer from Lincoln Heights, Mo., who took the picture, said the church was used as the background to show that "being Christian does not mean being anti-Muslim."

Mimi Pukuma, 29, of Philadelphia, posed with three friends and a sign that says, "We apologize from our hearts for the suffering our government is causing innocent Iraqi people."

"I've been writing letters to the government, going to anti-war vigils and so on but that's impersonal in many ways," she said.

"This seemed like I could in some small way express my sadness to Iraqi citizens."



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Lynch's legacy: More battle skills training

GI's experience in Iraq exposed a weak spot

BY HARRY LEVINS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — The Army has stirred something new into basic training — an extra ration of rigor.

For four months now, recruits here and at other posts have faced more rigorous basic training — the first nine weeks of Army life, when drill sergeants turn civilians into soldiers.

Now, recruits spend less time on the drill field and more time in the bondcocks. They spend less energy on spit and polish and more on machine guns and grenade launchers.

The reason: "We're a nation at war," says Maj. Gen. Randal R. Castro, 51, who took over last month as the commander of this Ozarks post.

Each year, Castro's drill sergeants push about 35,000 young men and women through basic training — almost one in five of the Army's recruits. But since June, the pushing has grown pushier.

"The paradigm of training has changed," says Castro. "We no longer train soldiers and give them their units for more training."

"Now, we train them for war." Traditionally, the Army paid less attention to combat skills for soldiers who were headed for support units.

True, a recruit who joined to fix



Pfc. Jessica Lynch is carried by U.S. Special Forces from a hospital in Nasiriyah, Iraq, in April 2003. This event showed a lack of battle experience in basic training and helped the Army retool their program.

trucks would learn in basic training how to fire a rifle and toss a grenade. But in basic and then in advanced individual training — the specialty-skill school that follows basic — he'd spend more time with his wrenches than his weapon.

Now, the Army is putting the weapon first.

Responsibility for overseeing the new-look training is expected to fall soon to Maj. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, 54.

Last month, Van Antwerp turned over control of this post to Castro.

Now, Van Antwerp is awaiting a Senate vote on confirming him for the third star of a lieutenant general — and a job as the general in charge of all basic and advanced individual training.

In explaining the more rigorous basic, Van Antwerp says that

the Army's experience in Iraq "was a wake-up call."

The new training may well be a legacy of Jessica Lynch.

Lynch was a private first class in the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. But she was hardly at the tip of the spear. Instead, she was a supply clerk in a rear-area outfit, the 507th Maintenance Company.

In past wars, such outfits rarely traveled in harm's way. But Iraq turned out to be different, as Lynch's fate vividly illustrated.

A few days into the invasion, Lynch was in a convoy far behind the front lines. But the convoy blundered into an ambush. The Iraqis killed 11 soldiers and took Lynch captive.

Her rescue sparked dramatic headlines. But her unit's poor showing in combat raised hard questions about the Army's training.

Van Antwerp brushes aside any suggestion that institutional embarrassment over the 507th Maintenance Company spurred the big change in basic training.

"It was coming anyway," he says. "We were already moving this way."

He calls the tougher regimen "a recognition that the battlefield of today is different. In the past, the battlefield was linear and contiguous. But those days are over. Now, the battlefield is 'non-linear.'"

"The people who used to do convoys are now doing combat patrols, just to get to their next stop."

And Van Antwerp says the new-look basic also recognizes another tough truth — that many soldiers no longer get the gift of time to train for combat with their first

unit after their "initial entry training." The Army's term for the combination of basic and advanced individual training.

In the peaceful '90s, soldiers fresh out of initial entry training could report to a unit and expect more of the same — for example, trips to the National Training Center in California's Mojave Desert to hone their skills.

But now, Castro says, "A large number of our soldiers will enter a combat zone within 45 days of leaving advanced individual training."

One way of preparing recruits for war: Get them out of the barracks and into the field. Castro says, "Basic trainees used to spend three days in the field. Now they spend 14."

An Army-wide panel decided that all soldiers — clerks and chaplain's assistants as well as infantrymen — ought to learn 40 basic "warrior skills" and undergraduate basic "battle drills."

The Army tested the 40-and-nine approach in a pilot program from April to June at Fort Jackson, S.C. It worked.

So the Army pushed the changes into effect at all five basic training stations — Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Jackson, Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Belvoir, Ky.

From the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va., spokesman Harvey Perrett says, "On average now, we've reached 32 of the 40 and nine of the drills. Getting to the full goal will take more money — and we're looking for ways to get it."

Castro says Fort Leonard Wood is at the 32-and-five level, "and we're close to along to the full 40-and-nine."

Marines, Iraqi special forces share awkward partnership

BY RICK JERVIS

Chicago Tribune

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq — The Iraqi special forces troops assigned to the U.S. Marines here fight, live, sleep and learn alongside their Marine counterparts, sharing personal stories, jokes and training tips.

Last year, some of them were exchanging rifle and rocket fire with Marines in the single deadliest battle of the Iraq ground war.

Enemies during the two-week battle for Nasiriyah in southern Iraq in late March and early April of 2003, the Marines and Iraqis now find themselves on the same side of the razor wire in a partnership that U.S. officials are trying to replicate throughout Iraq, one that pairs U.S. training and discipline with indigenous forces.

Military officials say such partnerships are a vital part in the handover of security responsibilities to Iraqis. But the relationships sometimes come with baggage.

"At first it bothered me, to be honest," said Lance Cpl. Tony Eresman, who lost two friends at Nasiriyah and now goes on night-

"They're very motivated. The Iraqi special forces understand what we want and what they should be doing. And they do it."

Maj. Matt Sasse

1st Battalion's operations officer

ly missions with the Iraqi commandos. "But I've come to understand where they were coming from. They were fighting for their country, just like we are now."

Called Shahwanis, after Mohammed Shahwan, the Iraqi general who founded the force, the Iraqi commandos are being trained in the tactical arts of raiding homes, detaining suspects and gathering intelligence. They live in tents with the Marines. They go out on joint raids of suspected rebel hideouts. Between missions they share sweet tea and pictures of their families with the Americans.

Shahwanis, mostly ex-commandos and soldiers from Iraq's disbanded army, answer directly to Marines, unlike other Iraqi security forces, which fall under Iraqi command.

The 60 Shahwanis in Camp Iskandariyah, a Marine forward op-

erating base along the Euphrates River 20 miles southwest of Baghdad, have been assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines. The Marines teach them discipline and marksmanship. The Shahwanis know the enemy and can distinguish Iraqis from Arab foreigners, a helpful ability on missions.

Unlike Iraqi police officers or Iraqi National Guardsmen, who have been known to flee firefights or join the insurgency, the Shahwanis are proving their battle mettle, officials here say. During an ambush on a Marine convoy early this month in Hawra, three Shahwanis riding with the Marines emptied three AK-47 magazines — 90 rounds each — at the enemy, even though at times they were firing the assault rifles over their heads, Marine officials said.

"They're very motivated," said Maj. Matt Sasse, the 1st Battalion's operations officer. "The

Iraqi special forces understand what we want and what they should be doing. And they do it."

Some rough edges remain. The Shahwanis' shooting accuracy needs to be honed, and they need more training in how to clear a house of suspects, Marines said.

On base, the Shahwanis live in two large tents across the gravel road from Alpha Company's command tent. They get paid \$500 to \$1,000 a month, depending on rank, which is more than Iraqi police officers, who earn \$100 to \$200 a month. But they also are at risk when they leave the Marine base and return home on leave. Iraqis suspected of aiding U.S. forces have been kidnapped, killed and beheaded.

"They're like my brothers," said one Shahwan who identified himself only as Khaleel. "They're teaching us to catch the terrorists. With their help, our country will be safe someday."

But relations between the two sides got off to a tense start when the Marines learned that at least four Shahwanis and one of their officers were involved in the single-deadliest battle of last year's ground war, in Nasiriyah.

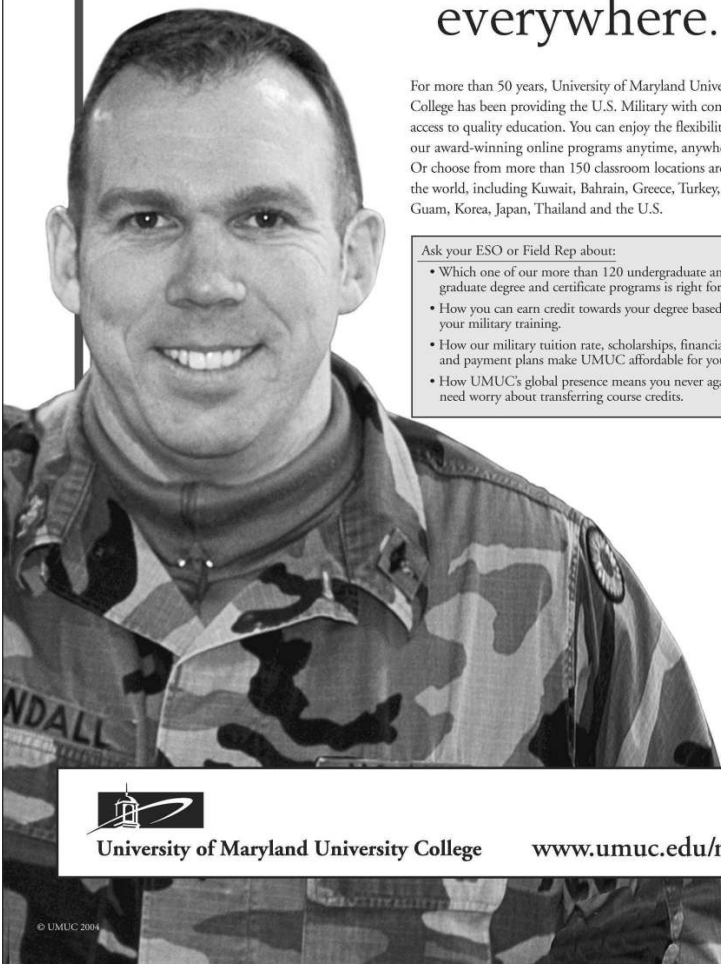
At least 29 Marines and soldiers were killed and dozens wounded in two weeks of fierce urban fighting between U.S. troops and Iraqi forces for control of Nasiriyah's bridges.

The Marines of Alpha Company were there, fighting through rocket-propelled-grenade attacks and machine-gun ambushes. No one from the company was killed, but they lost many fellow Marines, some close friends.

One of the Iraqi leaders organizing attacks against the Americans at Nasiriyah was Tahseen, Abid al-Rahman, a special forces trainer with the Iraqi army. Fifteen months later, he was helping train Shahwanis in Iskandariyah.

"They used to tell us Marines are our enemies, that they have low morale," said al-Rahman, who now meets nightly with Alpha Company commandos. "But actually they have very high morale. And they're here to liberate Iraq."

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IN THE STATES

Some states cracking down on flu shots

Fines, jail time threatened if vaccine is given to low-risk people

BY AMY F. BAILEY

The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Thinking of trying to wheedle a flu shot from your doctor even though you're not at high-risk for flu complications? Forget about it in Michigan. Or Washington, D.C. Or Massachusetts.

As the vaccine shortage hits home and long lines queue around the supermarket, a handful of states and the nation's capital are threatening doctors and nurses with fines or even jail if they give flu shots to healthy, low-risk people.

Health officials downplay the punishment and say that most health care workers are following the guidelines.

"But there are people who are uninsured and there are consumers who are not necessarily being as civic-minded as we would like. ...

This just provides us with some

backup," said Janet Olaszewski, Michigan's director of community health, who issued the order Thursday.

There are about 3.4 million people in Michigan considered a priority for a flu shot this fall — primarily the elderly, children 6 to 23 months, the chronically ill, pregnant women and certain health care workers. But the state only has about 2 million doses, Olaszewski said.

Health care violators in Michigan face a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$200 fine if convicted, the health director said.

At least four other states — Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon and Wisconsin — and Washington, D.C., have issued similar orders with varying penalties.

"It's a strong step," agreed Dr. Gregg Pane, acting director of the District of Columbia Department of Health, whose order took effect

Friday.

In Washington, violators could be fined up to \$1,000, and Pane said the health department would investigate complaints. In Wisconsin, penalties include up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

In Massachusetts, the penalty is a \$200 fine per infraction and six months in jail.

"It's not rationing," said Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Christine Ferguson. "It's being rational about how to reduce the number of deaths that could result from a serious flu season."

The doctor for a Boston nursing home called the state order controlling what the private sector can do with its own medicine "unprecedented." It makes it difficult for public flu shot clinics to continue, since many can't verify a "high risk" status for patients, said Dr. John Foster. But he said the action was needed.

"I think it is a public health cri-



AP

Marcia Hunter administers a flu shot to Bonnie Hall of Dacula, Ga., on Friday as she sits in her car at a drive-up flu vaccine clinic in front of the Lawrenceville Health Center in Lawrenceville, Ga.

sis," said Foster, medical director for the North End Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

"They can't wait and give vaccines out to people who shouldn't get it."

The nation is only getting about

half the 100 million flu shots it had expected for the current flu season. One of two primary vaccine suppliers, Chiron Corp., is barred from shipping its vaccine from a British factory because of contamination problems.

Kerry says he'll reverse Bush's stem cell policy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Kerry said he would reverse President Bush's restrictions on embryonic stem cell research as he



Kerry

remembered the late actor Christopher Reeve, a quadriplegic, as a hero and a friend in the Democrats' radio address Saturday. "We're going to make funding for this research a top priority in our government agencies, our universities and our medical community, and we'll continue to lead the world in great discoveries — all while upholding the highest ethical standards," the Democratic presidential candidate said.

Kerry called Bush's restrictions on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research "a ban that's tied the hands of our scientists and shut down some of our most promising research on spinal cord injuries, Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's and other life-threatening diseases."

"I know that when we put our best minds to work studying our worst diseases, time and time again we find treatments and cures and vaccines," Kerry said.

Reeve, paralyzed in a horseback riding accident, died from an infection last week.



AP

Vice President Dick Cheney's daughters, Elizabeth, left, and Mary, attend the Republican National Convention in New York, in this Sept. 1, 2004, photo.

Vice president's gay daughter prefers staying in shadows of father's career

BY JON SACHE

The Associated Press

DENVER — At the Republican National Convention this year, Mary Cheney and her partner Heather Poe sat together to watch Cheney's father, Vice President Dick Cheney, deliver his acceptance speech.

Afterward, Mary Cheney didn't join her sister onstage with their father. And Poe and Poe were nowhere in sight for the convention finale a day later, following remarks from Illinois Republican Senate candidate Alan Keyes that, as a lesbian, Mary Cheney is a "selfish hedonist."

A spokeswoman for the vice president said later that Mary Cheney and Poe, who sat in the vice president's box at the convention, decided on their own which events to attend. Now, again at the center of controversy over her sexual identity, Mary Cheney has declined to comment on remarks John Kerry

made during a presidential debate suggesting that her homosexuality was formed at birth. Cheney, 35, has lived for years in Conifer and runs operations in her father's campaign office. Before that, she worked as a gay and lesbian outreach coordinator for Coors Brewing Co., but she quit the job before her father's 2000 campaign.

Some gay activists have wondered how she can continue to support her father, the No. 2 man in an administration that supports a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

"I think she's stuck between the same rock and hard place as her father — that party allegiances dictate silence at best on gay and lesbian issues," said Julie Tolleson, a board member of Equal Rights Colorado. "She's supporting her father's ticket, as good daughters do."

Cheney, who wears a gold band on her left hand and shares her father's passion for fly fishing, is well known in Colorado, if not a high-profile figure.

Bush: Kerry doesn't have ability to lead nation

The Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — President Bush on Saturday questioned Sen. John Kerry's "ability to lead our nation," raising the Demo-

crat's year-old opposition to emergency funding for the Iraq war to paint his rival as too fickle to be trusted with America's safety.

Bush said it was simple: Kerry failed to support American troops in harm's way when he voted against an \$87 billion for military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Noting the vote was a year ago Sunday, Bush mocked Kerry for at first saying it would be irresponsible to oppose the measure, and then doing just that.

Bush, repeating a common campaign charge, said the change of heart was purely for political expedience, coming just as former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean was gaining steam as the party's anti-war candidate.

"Senator Kerry apparently decided supporting the troops even while they were in harm's way was not as important as shoring up his own political position," said Bush, speaking in a 20,000-seat sports arena that appeared about half-full.



Bush

Reviewers find more of Bush's Guard records

By MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Weeks after Texas National Guard officials signed an oath swearing they had turned over all of President Bush's military records, independent examiners found more than two dozen pages of previously unreleased documents about Bush.

The two retired Army lawyers went through Texas files under an agreement between the Texas Guard and The Associated Press, which sued to gain access to the files. The 31 pages of documents turned over to AP Thursday night include records for high-altitude training in 1972, less than three months before Bush abruptly quit flying as a fighter pilot.

The discovery is the latest in a series of embarrassments for Pentagon and Texas National Guard officials who have repeatedly said they found and released all of Bush's Vietnam-era military files, only to belatedly discover more records. Those discoveries — nearly 100 pages, including Bush's pay records and flight logs — have

been the result of Freedom of Information lawsuits filed in federal and Texas courts by AP.

A Texas National Guard spokesman defended the continuing discoveries, saying Guard officials didn't find all of Bush's records because they are disorganized and in poor shape.

"These boxes are full of dirt and rat (excrement) and dead bugs. They have never been sitting in an uncontrolled climate," said Lt. Col. John Stanford.

Two Texas officials had signed sworn affidavits insisting they had reviewed the files in those boxes and released copies of all that related to Bush's 1968-1973 Guard service, however.

Bush's time in the Texas Air National Guard has come under scrutiny in this war-time election season. Some Democrats ac-

cuse Bush of shirking his guard duties in 1972 and 1973, when Bush didn't show up for training for as long as six months at a time.

Democrats have contrasted Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry's combat service in Vietnam with Bush's stateside service as an F-102A fighter pilot in Texas.

Bush says he fulfilled all of his service obligations and did nothing wrong. The newly released documents shed no new light on the most controversial periods of Bush's guard tenure.

Texas Tech University law school professors Richard D. Rosen and Calvin Lewis, both former Army lawyers, reviewed the boxes of files earlier this week under an agreement in the AP lawsuit. They found three other boxes with files from Bush's unit that previous searches did not turn up, Stanford said.

The newly released documents include a January 1972 order for Bush to attend three days of "physiological training" at Laredo Air Force Base in Texas. His Texas payroll and attendance records, released earlier, show Bush was credited for serv-

ing on active-duty training for the three days involved.

At the time, pilots had to renew their high-altitude training every three years, said retired Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., a former head of the Air National Guard. Bush's first altitude training came in 1969 when he was in pilot school at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia.

The altitude training came six weeks before Bush began an unexplained string of flights on two-seat training jets and simulators. On April 12, 1972, Bush took his last flight in the single-seat F-102A fighter.

The future president skipped a required annual medical exam and was ordered grounded as of August 1972. Bush says he missed the exam because he was planning to train with an Alabama Air National Guard unit that did not fly the F-102A.

Bush went to Alabama that year to work on the U.S. Senate campaign of a family friend. Records show Bush did no Guard training at all between mid-April and late October 1972. He's credited with six days of training in October and November 1972, presumably with the Alabama unit.



Bush

Poll: National security is voters' top concern

By WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — National security issues such as the war in Iraq and terrorism are dominating voters' attention in the final weeks before Election Day, Associated Press polling found.

Along with security issues like war and terrorism, the economy and health care were near the top of the list of the nation's most important problems in an AP-Ipsos poll.

In a poll by CBS News in October 2000, the most important problems were Social Security, education and health care. National defense and the military were at 2 percent.

National security issues were picked by 55 percent of Americans as the most important problems facing the nation, according to the poll taken in early October — up from 43 percent who named national security issues in an April poll.

When asked in an open-ended question to identify the most important problems facing the United States, 27 percent mentioned war. That number has tripled since the summer of 2003 in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. An additional 18 percent named terrorism.

Economic problems — including the overall economy and unemployment — were named by four in 10, far behind national security issues. Two in 10 specifically mentioned the economy, and 13 percent said unemployment.

About one-fourth of those questioned mentioned other domestic issues, especially health care, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

War in Iraq: Concerns about war have grown steadily since July 2003, tripling since the aftermath of the Iraq invasion. Violence by a strengthening insurgency has been increasing since then.

Strong supporters of Democrat John Kerry were far more likely than strong supporters of President Bush to name "wars" as a top problem, according to the AP-Ipsos poll. Those who see the Iraq war as a top issue are slightly more inclined to support Kerry, other polls showed.

"I think we should get out as quick as we can. We never, never should've got in," said Art Van Moorehead, a retired farmer from Arlington, S.D.

Still, Bush gets more saying they trust him to handle Iraq.

Terrorism: Terrorism continues to be a top concern, though it has not increased as a worry in recent months. Nearly two in 10 — 18 percent — called it a top problem.

Those who name terrorism as a top problem are far more likely to support Bush. Likely voters are more inclined to trust Bush than Kerry on that issue.

Economy/jobs: The economy has edged higher in the public's thinking over the last three months. Two in 10 — 22 percent — called the economy a top problem and another 13 percent said unemployment. Strong Kerry supporters were more likely to name it as a top issue than strong Bush backers in the AP poll. Kerry has an advantage over the president on which candidate people trust more to handle the economy and jobs.

Health care: About two in 10 — 21 percent — named health care as a top issue, up from 14 percent who said that in April. Bush supporters and Kerry supporters were about equally likely to mention it as a top problem.

The poll of 1,000 adults was taken Oct. 4-6 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The question about the nation's top problems was asked of 479 adults and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.



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Muslim activist jailed for Libya dealings

Well-known figure admitted role in plot to assassinate Saudi prince

BY JENNIFER C. KERR

The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A prominent Muslim activist who admitted participating in a Libyan plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's crown prince was sentenced Friday to the maximum 23 years in prison for illegal business dealings with Libya.

Abdurahman Alamoudi, 52, pleaded guilty in July to accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars from high-ranking Libyan officials while serving as a go-between for them and Saudi dissidents.

While Alamoudi was not charged in connection with the alleged scheme to kill Crown Prince Abdullah, prosecutors cited the plot as reason for him to receive the maximum sentence.

"This conduct is so base, so reprehensible that this defendant deserves every day of prison that this court will impose upon him," government attorney Steven Ward said.

Defense lawyer Stanley Cohen asked for leniency and Alamoudi said he was sorry.

"Your honor, I regret my involvement in everything," Alamoudi said before U.S. District Judge Claude M. Hilton imposed the sentence.

Alamoudi, of Falls Church, Va., was a naturalized citizen from Eritrea who helped found the American Muslim Council and related American Muslim Foundation. His position within the Muslim community garnered him an invitation to the White House during the Clinton administration. He also participated in a group discussion with then-presidential candidate George W. Bush in 2000.

Alamoudi pleaded guilty to violating sanctions against travel and trade with Libya, making false statements on his immigration application, and a tax violation. As part of a plea deal, he surrendered his U.S. citizenship.

According to a 20-page "statement of facts" filed by prosecutors, Libyan dictator

Muammar Gadhafi wanted Abdullah killed after a March 2003 Arab League Summit during which the two called each other names.

Within two weeks, Alamoudi, who had in the past frequently traveled illegally to meet Libyan government officials, was summoned to a meeting in Tripoli and told Gadhafi wanted to punish Saudi leaders. The unidentified Libyan officials wanted Alamoudi to introduce them to Saudi dissidents who could create "headaches" for the Saudi regime, authorities said.

Alamoudi was not initially told the ultimate plan was to assassinate Abdullah, learning of it only several months later from an unidentified "high-ranking Libyan government official," the papers said.

Last year, a Libyan official paid Alamoudi \$250,000. Court documents indicate Alamoudi used some of the cash for himself and transferred the rest to two others for personal use.

Alamoudi received more cash from Libya and provided some to the Saudi dissi-

dents. He was carrying \$340,000 of that cash in England when it was seized by port authorities there during a routine baggage search. Alamoudi was questioned about the money but not arrested.

He returned to Libya and was arrested Sept. 28, 2003, when he returned to the United States.

Bush administration officials sought to portray the prosecution as a victory in the war against terrorism.

The sentence "shows that the system works: a terrorist facilitator has been sentenced to jail and we have reason to suspect that through his cooperation, we will obtain intelligence that will assist us in our ongoing efforts to advance these critical investigations," Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

Alamoudi's lawyer said his client was a victim and walked into the assassination plot "unknowing and unwitting." Cohen said he expected the government to seek a sentence reduction next year because of Alamoudi's continuing cooperation with prosecutors.

Study finds amphibian species in rapid decline

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eye of newt and toe of frog may one day be gone from witchy ponds.

Indeed, not just frogs and newts but amphibians in general are rapidly becoming threatened worldwide, a new study shows.

And while few would miss the evil brood concocted by the witches in William Shakespeare's Macbeth, the rapid decline of animals like salamanders and salamanders is raising concerns as it worsens, a team of researchers reported Thursday.

"What we're seeing here is completely unprecedented declines and extinctions," said Simon N. Stuart of the World Conservation Union, lead researcher on the study.

These declines are "outside our normal experience," Stuart said in a telephone interview.

There are a variety of reasons for some losses, while others remain a mystery, the group reported in a paper being published online by the journal Science.

Amphibians have porous skins and narrow environmental requirements, and their decline may be an indication that something sinister is under way in the environment, Simon said.

"Where amphibians proceed, others may follow, possibly us also," he said.

The researchers reported that 1,856 species, 32.5 percent of the known species of amphibians, are "globally threatened," meaning they fall into the International Union for the Conservation of Na-

ture's categories of vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. By comparison, 12 percent of bird species and 23 percent of mammal species are threatened.

The researchers reported 435 amphibian species are in rapid decline, at least nine species have gone extinct since 1980 and another 113 species have not been reported from the wild in recent years and are considered to be

possibly extinct.

Their findings, called the Global Amphibian Assessment, were compiled by more than 500 scientists in 60 countries.

"All in all, amphibians are certainly in deep trouble in many areas, for a whole suite of reasons," said Ross A. Alford, a professor of tropical biology at James Cook University in Australia.

The new paper concludes that while exploitation and loss of habitat are factors in some losses, other declines remain enigmatic, occurring for unknown reasons.

Overexploited species are concentrated in East and Southeast Asia, where frogs are harvested for food, the report says. Habitat loss occurs more widely, but especially in Southeast Asia, West Africa and the Caribbean, it adds.

First indictment on drug property law announced

BY CHARLES SHEEHAN

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A homeowner accused of letting his property be used for illegal drug activity has been indicted on federal charges.

It was the first time federal prosecutors brought charges under a new statute that holds homeowners responsible for drug activity on their property.

U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan said Friday there is an ongoing investigation into alleged drug activity at the home of Henry Keen, 62. She would not comment further on what led to the Oct. 8 indictment.

The indictment alleges that between May 2003 and August 2004, Keen maintained his residence for the use and distribu-

tion of controlled substances. Federal prosecutors will seek the forfeiture of his home.

Keen denied his home of 36 years was a drug house, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported in a story for publication Saturday. "As far as I'm concerned it's clean," Keen said. "Me, myself and I, that's the whole crew that lives there."

Keen does not have a listed telephone number and could not be reached for comment Friday.

Since the United States Attorney's Drug Demand Reduction Program was announced in April, more than 30 landlords, tenants and mortgagees have been informed of criminal activity at their properties across the western district of Pennsylvania, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

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IN THE WORLD

Karzai keeps lead in Afghan election

Two U.S. soldiers killed in attack

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Interim leader Hamid Karzai widened his early lead Saturday in Afghanistan's landmark election, but the deaths of two U.S. soldiers and three Afghan children in bomb attacks underscored that peace and security still elude much of the country.

The reports of violence came as hundreds of election staff got back to work at counting centers across Afghanistan after a day off Friday to celebrate the start of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Early results from about 100,000 votes tallied so far — about 1.2 percent of the ballots cast nationwide — showed that U.S.-backed Karzai, the election favorite, was surging ahead with 77 percent of the vote.

Final results from the election — Afghans' first opportunity to directly pick their leader — are expected at the end of October, although it should be clear who has won after a week.

Karzai strongly condemned an assault Friday in eastern Kunar

province in which a truck was reportedly set on fire and then a remote-controlled bomb detonated, killing at least three children and a policeman. He described it as a terrorist atrocity committed by "enemies of Islam."

Meanwhile, the U.S. military said a homemade bomb hit an American Humvee jeep on patrol in the southern province of Uruzgan on Thursday, killing two soldiers and wounding three others, one of them critically.

While polling day, Oct. 9, was mostly peaceful despite threats by Taliban-led rebels to sabotage the vote, their insurgency still simmers in the country's lawless south. Nearly 1,000 people, many of them insurgents, have died in political violence this year in the run-up to the poll.

In Washington, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, said the election was a triumph for Afghans and international forces protecting them, but only one step on the road to stability.

"It could take as long as 10 years for it to be a truly successful country in terms of security, in terms of economic development, in terms of being a successful democratic state," Khalilzad told reporters Friday.

Afghans are aching for peace after conflicts dating back to the Soviet occupation of the 1980s, and the U.N.-backed election, which cost about \$200 million to stage, has generated huge interest.

A top election official has estimated that despite Taliban intimidation and bad weather, about 8 million of the 10.5 million registered voters cast ballots. Count-



Afghan election workers sort the votes for interim President Hamid Karzai in Kabul on Saturday. Final results from the election are expected at the end of October.

ing began Thursday after five days of delays as a panel of foreign experts probed electoral fraud allegations submitted by the 16 candidates.

Of 98,605 valid votes tallied in seven northern and central provinces, Karzai won 75,936 or 77 percent of the total, the official election Web site said. Former Education Minister Yunus Qanuni, expected to be Karzai's closest challenger, had 9.5 percent, ahead of ethnic Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum with 6.4 percent. No other candidate mustered more than 1.5 percent.

At the Kabul counting center, set up in a half-built Afghan army barracks, observers for the candidates were watching the count closely.

Abdul Qudus Sayeg, a representative of Qanuni, alleged that ballot boxes had been stuffed in favor of Karzai and ballots cast for Qanuni had been deliberately spoiled — but was unable to explain where or when this happened.

"We've seen lots of papers marked with different pens" from the ones issued to polling stations, he said. "The new marks are all in favor of one candidate."

U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said the last of the ballot boxes — which have been transported from far-flung areas by plane, helicopter, truck and even donkey — were expected to reach counting centers by Sunday.

Former detainee defends actions

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A Saudi-American held in U.S. solitary confinement for nearly three years without charges was quoted Saturday as saying he went to Afghanistan to do charity work as he said his U.S. jailers mocked his assertions he was an American.

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In the interview, Hamdi said he went to Afghanistan because he wanted to help the "Afghan brothers."

"Their suffering was increasing day after day," he said. "I used to watch the extent of loss, hunger and homelessness they were in and I felt solidarity with them."

Hamdi told Al-Madina he had been in Afghanistan two months when the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks occurred. He said the area he was in came under the control of the forces of an Afghan warlord who fought the Taliban and "I was lead in shackles with many of those who were doing relief work."



Hamdi

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Sudanese government, rebels discuss peace

BY RODRIGUE NGWUI

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — The Sudanese government has narrowed differences with southern rebels in peace talks to end a two-decade civil war, mediators said Saturday as chief negotiators left the talks in neighboring Kenya to observe the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha and southern rebel leader John Garang — the chief negotiators for the warring parties — will rejoin talks on a comprehensive peace deal at an undisclosed date after Ramadan, and expert-level consultations will continue without interruption, said chief mediator Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo.

More than 2 million people have died in the 21-year conflict, which is separate from fighting in the western region of Darfur, where pro-government Arab militias are accused of waging a campaign of murder, rape and arson on African villagers.

Talks to end the fighting in southern Sudan resumed Oct. 7. The government and rebels agreed to form jointly a national army of 24,000 troops to keep the peace in areas that saw some of their

most fierce clashes in the 1990s, said Sayed el-Khatib, a Sudanese government negotiator. Under the agreement each side will contribute 12,000 troops, and the government will provide arms, ammunition and funding.

But warring parties are at odds over a rebel demand to maintain 10 separate military units under their own command in southern Sudan as a security guarantee, Khatib said. The rebels want the government to pay for such a force, a proposal the government negotiator called "problematic."

"Pursuing such an army that is not under the national command of the armed forces from the national kitty is problematic," Khatib said.

They two sides also disagree on how and when to disarm other armed groups in the southern Sudan and how to incorporate members into rebel and government forces, Khatib said.

The conflict broke out in 1983 after the rebels from the mainly animist and Christian south took up arms against the predominantly Arab and Muslim north. Most of the 2 million casualties have come from war-induced famine.

Although often simplified as a religious war, the conflict is fueled by historical disputes and competition for resources, including major oil reserves.

Soyuz docks with space station

Malfuction with craft's autopilot causes crew to approach manually

By MARIA DANILOVA

The Associated Press

KOROLYOV, Russia — A Russian spacecraft ferrying a fresh crew to the international space station had to be docked manually Saturday after an unexplained glitch sent it toward the outpost too quickly.

Mission Control staff monitoring the docking from Korolyov, outside Moscow, broke into applause after Captain Salizhan Sharipov docked the Soyuz with the station.

Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov said that with 660 feet to go before docking at the station, the spacecraft braked and officials on the grounds switched off the autopilot. Soyuz spacecraft are normally guided by autopilot on their approach to the station and during the docking, but the crew is trained to operate the capsule manually in case of computer failure.

"Everything went normally, even though we noted a higher speed, close to dangerous, but the crew acted brilliantly," Solovyov said.

The Soyuz TMA-S, also carrying Russian Yuri Shargin and American Leroy Chiao, docked with the station at 12:16 a.m. just over two days after lifting off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Thursday.

It was the fourth time a Soyuz had filled in for U.S. space shuttle flights, suspended since the Columbia burned up on re-entry in February 2003.

Fred Gregory, the deputy director NASA, said the switch from automatic to manual mode was "seamless."

In a rare rupture with a tradition of having at least one crewman with previous experience in piloting the capsule, none of the astronauts aboard the Soyuz had flown it before. But space officials downplayed the lack of experience, saying the crew had undergone sufficient training.

Officials said they still did not know what caused the glitch.

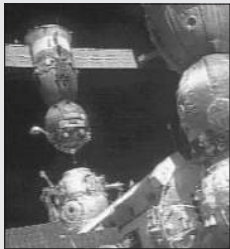
"At the approach stage, we faced a few divergences in speed. We need to find out the facts and reasons why it happened," said Yuri Semyonov, head of the Energiya company, the Soyuz's manufacturer.

"At the moment of automatic docking, the machine gave a danger signal and the crew had to take manual control."

Sharipov and Chiao are to replace Russian Gennady Padalka and American Mike Fincke, who are ending a half-year mission on the orbiting station. Padalka and Fincke will return to Earth with Shargin on Oct. 24.

About three hours after the docking, Padalka opened the hatch and embraced Sharipov, the first new crew member to enter the station. Chiao and Shargin followed the captain, and space officials on the ground wished them a productive mission — and wished the crew they are replacing a safe journey back to Earth.

"Gennady, I see your hair has gotten too long," Gregory quipped over the radio to Padalka. "It looks like you're ready to go home."



The Soyuz TMA-S, left, is seen moments before docking to the international space station on Saturday.

During their six-month mission, Sharipov and Chiao will conduct experiments to research AIDS vaccines and study plant growth, and will take at least two space walks.

Gregory said that Russia and the United States had completed negotiations on joint flights earlier this month, paving the way for the two nations to work together through April 2006.

Two hurt in Austria cable car accident

The Associated Press

LINZ, Austria — A cable car gondola accident Saturday in northern Austria injured two people, state broadcaster ORF reported.

The doors of the gondola sprang open when it was hit by the car ahead, which had slid back, ORF reported.

A girl fell 30 feet to the ground, suffering serious injuries, and her grandmother suffered unspecified injuries that required her to be evacuated by helicopter, ORF reported.

The cable car that slid back crashed to the ground after the collision. There were no passengers on board.

Mountain rescuers were evacuating other cable car passengers, the report said.

The cable car line has 26 gondolas that transports passengers from Gmunden, a town 120 miles west of Vienna, to Gruenberg, a mountain popular with hikers.

In November 2000, 155 people were killed as an alpine cable car transporting skiers to the Kaprun glacier, 60 miles south of Salzburg, caught fire.

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Pope marks 26th year of papacy

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Thousands of well-wishers, famous and not, Christian and non-Christian, have showered Pope John Paul II with greetings for the 26th anniversary of his election as pontiff, many of them thanking him for speaking out against preventive war, his spokesman said Saturday.

After a lively concert Friday night at the Vatican by a Russian military chorus and orchestra to publicly celebrate the occasion, John Paul marked the actual date of his election on Oct. 16, 1978, with Mass, as he does early every morning, in his private chapel.

Then he scheduled a second Mass in the chapel at 6 p.m., to coincide approximately with the hour Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, Poland, was elected by his fellow cardinals to the papacy, spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in an interview on Vatican Radio.

At the morning Mass, the pope thanked God "not only for all those 26 years, but above all for all that was done in these 26 years, which is an enormous amount," Navarro-Valls said.



Pope John Paul II marked the 26th anniversary of his papacy, feted on Friday by the Red Army Chorus and Orchestra from Russia, a country the pope has been unable to visit.

At the early evening Mass, the pope will put himself "at God's disposition for all that God wants for the future, plans, initiatives, pastoral work from now on he will be able to do," the spokesman told Vatican Radio.

Eighty-four and slowed down by Parkinson's disease and hip and knee problems, John Paul has said on several occasions that he intends to continue working in his mission as pope as long as God lets him.

Navarro-Valls told Vatican Radio that while many of the greetings came from VIPs, several thousand of them were sent

by "common people, some Catholic, some not, some not even Christians."

He said they thanked the pope "for his teaching on specific subjects like peace, family, dialogue, tolerance, human dignity."

In a separate interview with the Italian news agency ANSA, Navarro-Valls was quoted as saying "many thanked the pope for all that he said about peace in the world, above all on the subject of preventive war."

In the run-up to the U.S.-led Iraq war, John Paul spoke out repeatedly against war, insisting dialogue was required to bring peace.

Social activists meet in London

LONDON — Thousands of activists representing a rainbow of anti-globalization, anti-war and anti-racism groups gathered in London on Saturday for the third European Social Forum, with Iraq and the U.S. presidential election at the top of many people's agendas.

Organizers said at least 20,000 people were expected to attend three days of speeches, workshops and debates, culminating Sunday with an anti-war march through central London to Trafalgar Square.

"We're together in opposition to the message that there's no alternative to free market globalization," said Dave Timms, a spokesman for the World Development Movement, a participating organization.

"But it's also a forum in opposition to the war and in opposition to racism."

The U.S. election is a central focus of many of the activists.

"The war in Iraq is clearly one of the big themes for this conference," Timms said. "And this close to the U.S. election, this gives a forum for people who dislike George Bush to rally."

EU nominee in hot water

ROME — Already under fire for calling homosexuality a sin, the Italian minister tapped for a European Commission job was in more hot water Saturday after saying that single mothers "aren't very good."

Rocco Buttiglione, Italy's European affairs minister, a Catholic and friend of Pope John Paul II, has been nominated to be the European Union commissioner overseeing civil liberties and justice matters. A European Parliament committee has concluded that Buttiglione is unfit for the job, and the Parliament as a whole is to vote later this month on whether to confirm all nominees to the new EU Commission.

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Patrolling car lots

DC WASHINGTON — Police in several neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River are training church members to patrol parking lots during services. About one-third of the 6,134 vehicles stolen through September were taken in the city's sixth and seventh police districts. An increasing number of the vehicles have been disappearing from church parking lots.

Vehicle weight limit

CA CHICO — City officials plan to raise to seven tons the weight limit for vehicles using most city streets. They cite the growing number of heavy sport utility vehicles as a reason for abandoning the traditional three-ton limit. That limit was intended to keep commercial trucks off residential streets.

Outsourcing outrage

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — Nurses at the University of Virginia Medical Center and union leaders say they're insulted that the hospital is paying a recruiting company \$18,500 for each foreign nurse hired from countries such as Australia and South Africa. The additional 12 nurses are an effort to maintain adequate staffing in a highly competitive market, hospital officials said.

Hurricane aid doled out

PA HARRISBURG — The Federal Emergency Management Agency has given \$34 million to 46 counties recovering from flood damage caused by remnants of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan. About \$25 million went to homeowners and renters either forced from their homes or needing home repair. The remainder covered costs such as replacing belongings and medical costs not covered by insurance.

Booted from insurance

WI MADISON — Participation in the state's health insurance program for the working poor dropped by 3,000 people a month after officials implemented tougher rules for proving eligibility. Since May 14, BadgerCare applicants and those already in the program have been required to fill out a form verifying their employment, income and lack of health insurance coverage.

Food tax up in the air

WV SHEPHERDSTOWN — Legislators want to examine other states' sales taxes on food before deciding whether to remove West Virginia's 6 percent tax. An interim committee asked the Department of Tax and Revenue to conduct a state-by-state analysis. Senate Finance Chairman Walt Helmick says lawmakers also must find ways to replace lost revenue if the tax is removed.

Clearing up traffic

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Gov. Bill Richardson is releasing \$3.3 million to extend a major Albuquerque thoroughfare through part of Petroglyph Nation-

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

al Monument. It would provide another link between the city on the east side of the Rio Grande and the city's expanding west side. Supporters say it will ease traffic congestion. Opponents argue it shouldn't run through the monument, considered sacred to several American Indian tribes.

Tree-lined street OK'd

NM SEATTLE — A majority of city council members endorse the mayor's plan of turning busy Mercer Street along south Lake Union into a tree-lined boulevard. It's part of Mayor Greg Nickels' \$250 million plan to redevelop the neighborhood as a biotech center. The street between Interstate 5 and the Seattle Center is known as the "Mercer Mess" because of traffic congestion.

Parents jailed

TX HOUSTON — A 29-year-old Brazoria County couple convicted of injury to a child after the husband used a stun gun on two of his stepchildren are behind bars again.

Theodore Moody and his wife, Tsianina, were jailed after investigators said they encouraged her 14-year-old daughter to crawl through a window and run away from a Sweeney home. The girl lived with her maternal grandmother.



He's all wet

Frank Klipsch, President and CEO of the Bettendorf Family YMCA, experiences the water park features during a grand opening ceremony at the facility in Bettendorf, Iowa.

The couple apparently planned to reunite the family in rural upstate New York, although doing so violated the terms of probation.

Law enforcement officials found the girl, as well as three other children ages 13, 5 and 4, with Theodore Moody at a home near Savannah, N.Y., about 30 miles west of Syracuse. Moody was booked into the Wayne County, N.Y., jail on charges of interference with child custody, violating probation and being a convicted felon in possession of firearms.

Fewer blacks studies

MI ANN ARBOR — The University of Michigan's freshman class had 15 percent fewer black students than last year, partly because fewer applied after the Supreme Court struck down the school's affirmative action policy, officials said.

University spokeswoman Julie Peterson said some potential applicants may have mistakenly believed that the court's June 2003 ruling completely abolished affirmative action in admissions.

Instead, the ruling required the school to modify the way it accounts for race in undergraduate admissions.

Among the school's 6,040 new first-year students, 350 were black, compared with 410 last year. Applications from black students were down more than 25 percent, officials said.

Colon cancer screening

NY NEW YORK — A survey of 66 city hospitals indicates that if the trend continues at the current rate, 10,000 more people will have undergone colon cancer screening than last year, health officials said.

By mid-2004, the number of colonoscopies had increased by 8 percent, to 40,000 per quarter, from 2003, the officials said during the second annual Colon Cancer Prevention and Control Summit held at Gracie Mansion on Thursday. The numbers were based on data from the city Health Department's colonoscopy survey of the 66 participating hospitals.

Election Day decision

OH TOLEDO — In a victory for the Democrats, a federal judge ruled that Ohio voters who show up at the wrong polling place on Election Day can still cast ballots as long as they are in the county where they are registered.

U.S. District Judge James Carr blocked a directive from Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, a Republican, who recently announced that poll workers must send voters to their correct precinct.

The judge said voters who show up at the wrong polling place after moving without notifying the elections board, and those whose names cannot be found on the registration rolls, should be able to cast provisional ballots there.

The decision is a victory for the Ohio Democratic Party and a coalition of labor and voter rights groups, which said Blackwell's order discriminates against the poor and minorities.



Katie Cloud, right, and Hannah Bloch, both 7, play with water in a puddle formed rain at Roosevelt Elementary School's playground in Ames, Iowa.



Bridget Dahlingshus 4, left, of Tipp City, Ohio, and Annellee Logon 2, of Urbana, Ohio, swat at dolphin shaped balloons at a political rally in Troy, Ohio.



Rain, rain go away Two umbrellas weren't quite enough to cover a group of University of Missouri-Kansas City students attempting to shield themselves from the rain while walking across campus in Kansas City, Mo.



Camouflage kitty

Pumpkin, a 1-year-old mostly marmalade-colored cat, crouches in a pile of bright orange maple leaves in a yard in Kalspell, Mont.



Sunset soccer

Smith, Ark.

A couple of girls leave the soccer field at Ben Geren Regional Park at sunset in Fort



I want it, Mommy!

Yong Choi and her son, Jae Woon Oh, look at Albo, a robotic dog at the Sony Style store in the high-end Beverly Center shopping mall in Los Angeles.



On the right track

Tank Smith hoists the motor of the Orient Express as he helps set up the 2004 Coastal Carolina Fair and Expo on the Craven County fairgrounds in New Bern, N.C.

Cemetery goes for turf

CA APPLE VALLEY — The Apple Hills Memorial Park cemetery is giving up grass in favor of artificial turf.

It's a move owners believe will save as much as \$180,000 in water and maintenance costs over the next three years. The cemetery is the final resting place for cowboy stars Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

Hitt originally started selling artificial turf just to people who wanted it for their family plots, but has gradually begun to put it down throughout the cemetery. He expects he'll have to replace it about once every eight years.

Artificial grass has several benefits besides saving money on water and maintenance costs, said Dave Hepburn of the Internment Association of California, the state's largest cemetery trade association.

Medicare benefits

MI JACKSON — State officials agreed Thursday to restore Medicaid benefits to more than 50,000 Mississippi residents who were scheduled to lose coverage after lawmakers scaled back the rapidly growing health care program.

Attorneys reached a settlement in a lawsuit filed by patients seeking to recover their benefits, and a federal judge approved the deal. The agreement will restore Medicaid coverage until at least Jan. 31, giving lawmakers time to repeal the legislation that eliminated coverage.

Lawmakers abolished medical benefits last spring for many low-income recipients who are elderly or disabled as a cost-saving measure within Medicaid, a federal and state program that provides health care for 768,000 elderly, disabled and poor Mississippians.

Dwellers face eviction

NH TILTON — Residents of seven homes at the Sherryland Village mobile home park face eviction next month unless they come up with \$700,000. The park's owner says he's trying to sell the property for about \$1.2 million. Residents are trying to turn the property into a co-op so they would have a say in rent rates and rules.

IV drug use capital

CA FRESNO — The nation's capital of intravenous drug use is not New York or Miami, not Chicago or Detroit — but Fresno.

It is an unlikely distinction for a city of fewer than 500,000 people in the heart of one of the nation's richest agricultural regions.

The percentage of people shooting up heroin and other drugs in Fresno is nearly three times the national average, fueled by a boom in methamphetamine use, according to a study issued last month.

"This town is so full of meth," said Amy Wilson, 28, who was ordered into rehab after her daughter, now 3½ months old, tested positive for methamphetamine at birth.

The Fresno area has become home to Mexican drug cartels that operate in its rural expanses, where the farm chemicals used to make meth are readily available and the noxious fumes are less easily detect-

ed. According to a 2001 estimate by the Drug Enforcement Administration, 80 percent of the country's meth comes from the cartels.

Street dedicated to GI

CT BRIDGEPORT — City officials dedicated Orange Street to the memory of Army Spc. Tyanna Avery-Felder of Bridgeport, who was killed in April in Mosul, Iraq. Avery-Felder, 22, was a cook with the Army's Stryker Brigade. At the time of her death, she was the 12th Connecticut resident, and first state woman, killed in the fighting.

Teen gastric bypass

TX HOUSTON — Two doctors and a hospital offered a free gastric bypass to a 420-pound teenager after another medical center canceled the procedure because his insurance would not pay for it.

Doctors at Obesity Surgery Specialists said 16-year-old Brandon Bennett needs the operation for a chance at a healthy life.

Brandon is often sent home from school because of high blood pressure and an elevated heart rate, and he is too big to be allowed on rides at Six Flags AstroWorld.

He had been set to have the bypass at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston this month until the insurance issue surfaced. After the Houston Chronicle reported on his health problems, the obesity center contacted his family this week.

School evacuated

FL OPA-LOCKA — A shooting suspect trying to escape police ran into a Catholic school Thursday, forcing police to evacuate about 140 children.

No children were hurt and the suspect and a companion were arrested, police spokesman Frank Gonzalez said.

Police were chasing the suspects' rental truck for blocks before it crashed into a house, police said. The companion was caught, but the other man ran, shooting at officers before running into Our Lady of Perpetual Help school in the Miami suburb of Opa-locka, police said. He was soon arrested.

Miami television station WFOR showed footage of small children running from the school. A woman rushed out carrying two children, followed by another group of two more youngsters. A group of older children were later seen running from the school to another building.

Former JFK boat seized

MA MARBLEHEAD — Federal agents seized a sailboat Wednesday that was once owned by President Kennedy, saying the boat's current owner bought it with proceeds from a large-scale marijuana trafficking operation.

The Star Class sloop "Flash II" was purchased in 1934 by Kennedy, who sailed it in races off Hyannis. He sold the boat in 1942 just before shipping out for World War II.

Federal prosecutors said its current owner, Gregory Olaf Anderson, bought it in 1996 with the proceeds from his marijuana smuggling and distribution operation.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press

Dazzling jewel goes on display

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of the world's largest rubies went on public display for the first time Saturday, the newest star of the National Gem Collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

The 23.1 carat Carmen Lucia stone "is the largest and finest faceted ruby on public display," Jeffrey Post, curator of the gem collection, said Tuesday.

Discovered in Myanmar — formerly known as Burma — in the 1930s, the stone has been in private hands until now.

Tiny fireworks seem to go off inside the deep red stone as it turns, flashes of light reflecting off its facets. The gem is set in a platinum ring with diamonds.

The jewel was obtained with funds donated to the museum by Dr. Peter Buck in memory of his Brazilian-born wife. Post declined to discuss the price.

"The Carmen Lucia ruby is a breathtakingly beautiful gemstone and a magnificent gift to the American people," Post said. If it had been sold privately, chances are it never would have been available for public viewing, he said.

It's not as big as the famed Hope Diamond or some other stones but it is about as big as rubies get, Post said.

And the fiery light reflected from the ruby easily draws attention away from the larger sapphire that will be displayed nearby.

The two types of stone are displayed together because they are essentially the same material — corundum, or aluminum oxide — Post said. The ruby gets its red color from traces of chromium, while other materials give the sapphire its usual blue color.

Post added that some large red gems are on display in various collections labeled rubies, but many of them are actually spinels, a different type of stone that is also red. While rubies are aluminum oxide, spinels are magnesium aluminum oxide.

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It's impossible to set a value on the new gem, Post said, commenting that as a large, clear stone becomes better known more people become interested in it and it becomes, essentially, priceless.

Post said Mrs. Buck, a native of Brazil, was proud of having become an American citizen. After her death her husband, a co-founder of the Subway sandwich shop chain, decided to arrange for the museum to acquire the gem as a gift to the nation in her memory.



The 23.1 carat Carmen Lucia ruby went on public display Saturday at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington.



Donkey cart riders unharness their donkeys to take them for treatment by veterinarians at The Brooke Hospital for Animals on Sept. 23, in Manaish, 20 miles northwest of Cairo, Egypt.

British charity helps the working animals of Egypt

BY CAROLINE GHOBRIAL

The Associated Press

MANAISH, Egypt — Sabri Ahmed, standing beside his ailing donkey, blushes and looks away when a veterinarian describes how the gangly teenager used to beat the animals his family trades for a living with a nail-studded wooden bat.

Today, he swears he'd never do it again.

Ahmed picked up abusive habits toward the working animals on the streets, where beating a donkey isn't considered unusual among the tens of thousands of children who help supplement family incomes or work to survive on their own. He's begun shaking them with the help of veterinarians from Brooke Hospital for Animals.

For 70 years this month, the hospital has been providing free care for working animals of Egypt's poor. In the past two years, the British-based charity has been formally training Egyptian children how to keep their animals healthy and to treat them kindly.

Their young clients drive the donkey and horse-pulled carts that weave between cars in Egypt's notorious traffic, peddling vegetables, collecting garbage or hauling secondhand goods to try to resell.

"Our main aim is to help poor people by treating

their animals, which are the source of living for them, and to educate these people how to treat their animals and do basic first aid," said Hassan Sami, general manager of the Brooke hospital.

The Brooke animal hospital was established in 1934 by Dorothy Brooke, the wife of a British army general who began collecting donations from friends after seeing how British military horses were being treated in Egypt.

Though its roots were in Egypt, over the years Brooke animal hospitals have opened in Jordan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Ghana.

All of the Brooke hospitals have mobile services that take teams far from the hospitals to where the animals are working or being sold and traded. In Cairo, for example, there are daily mobile trips to quarries where about 30 donkeys are hauling stone at any one time.

Back at the Cairo hospital, Brooke-trained veterinarian Ahmed Rostom was looking after 82 inpatients — mostly horses and donkeys with broken limbs and severe flesh wounds from chafing gear — penned up in long rows of stalls. Names of donors are carved on wooden plaques on each.

"Normally, treating an animal will cost around \$3.25," Rostom said. "We don't just treat the animals for free, but also — in cases where a horse or a donkey can't be treated — we euthanize them if their owners agree."

New potent strain blamed for rise in Austin heroin deaths

BY JIM VERTUNO

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Tracey Crosssett graduated high school early, had a new car, a new boyfriend and planned to study music in college.

She was 17 when her father found her dead at home on Easter Sunday, a needle lying next to her on the floor.

"Everything was going her way," Steve Crosssett said. "She was a brilliant kid. A very outgoing kid. ... This has been the worst experience of my life."

Thirty-four people have died so far this year in Travis County from a heroin overdose, up from 23 last year, Crosssett was the youngest.

Authorities believe a particularly potent strain of heroin being smuggled into the United States and circulating on the streets of the Texas capital is partly to blame for the highest number of heroin deaths in Austin since 1992.

"We go through this periodically," Austin Police Cmdr. Harold Platt said. "The heroin being sold on the street is too strong for some people to take and when you shoot it into your arm, it's too late."

For Tracey Crosssett, that moment came on April 11.

A singer and bassist in a rock band, The Quicks, she had played a Saturday night gig in an Austin club, a show her father attended.

Around midnight, she arrived home. She went into a bathroom, fixed a hit in a syringe and shot up. Her father found her around 6 a.m.

Heroin's potency — and its potential lethal effect — depends on its purity.

Police say most of the heroin in the Austin area comes from Mexico and is known as "black tar" because of its sticky, hard consistency and dark color, which comes from the manufacturing process. Dealers "cut" the heroin by mixing it with water-soluble products like powdered milk or chocolate, sugars or starches before it hits the street.

And it's cheap — a typical dose sells for about \$20.

Steve Crosssett said a toxicologist told him Tracey's fatal dose was from Mexico. But the overall rise in deaths suggests Austin may have an influx of stronger heroin from other parts of the world, said Jane Maxwell, a professor at the University of Texas Center for Social Work Research.

Heroin from Mexico is typically regarded as the weakest; South American is the strongest, Maxwell said.



FAMILY PHOTO/AP

Tracey Crosssett, shown at 17, was found dead at home of a heroin overdose in April. Hers is one of 34 heroin-related deaths in Austin, Texas, and Travis County so far this year.

Sunday Horoscope

The Sagittarius moon tickles the emotions with curiosity. It's a big world out there, and when you stop and think about it, your own vision of it is extremely limited. In these last days of the Libran solar influence to bond with friends in the exploration of the many worlds that intersect your own. Ask a question that never occurred to you to ask before.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 17) You know more about how to feel fulfilled and as a result will find many satisfying ways to spend your time this year. Many people are affected by the difference you make. November brings romantic galore. You're especially compatible with Aries and Cancer. Work gets more challenging in January, and you'll have to educate yourself in preparation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're presented with so-called shortcuts, but the only way to get full enjoyment out of an activity is to do it right, top to bottom. The afternoon brings dreamy lethargy. Why fight it when you really do need some rest?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You're coming from a place of kindness in all you do today. In fact, you're perfect in the way you do what you do. So take nothing for granted. A friend has problems and may just want to be left alone for a while.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You deserve more support but can't expect this from people who are unreasonable by nature. When you seek understanding elsewhere, a rather wonderful, lasting change for the better will come about.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Change up your living space, and you'll look at your environment in a whole new way. This casa nirvana spreads to other areas of your life, especially your finances, which improve as you get more organized.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) When you're stuck on the problems, that's what you'll see. Why go there when there's so much praise and

good tidings coming from those around you? Spending intense time with a Scorpio or Virgo can change your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You're a fabulous partner, so believe it. Friendships come and go. Some are lifelong; others are a few hours of kismet. Try your best to let relationships develop naturally. Holding on too tightly is a waste of energy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

By volunteering to help others, you send yourself into a positive karmic cycle that continues rolling all week. Commitment issues may come up. A brief and to-the-point talk is better than trying to have a prolonged heart to heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're lucky when you just show up. You could even win a prize. Take a brisk walk this evening and get important thinking done. If you need another perspective, a Capricorn helps you see the big picture.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You may feel very high school-ish in regard to relationships. It is so wrong to want to be accepted by the "popular crowd"? But do consider why you're putting certain people on a pedestal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Worrying matters are dropped, not because they are completely solved but because more important challenges call you to act. You're a pro at creating a mysterious air, but tonight's encounter brings your guard down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This social scene is a bit of a beware: If you listen too much to your friends, you'll get caught up in a line of reasoning that, when all is said and done, doesn't make a lick of sense. Think for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Relationships get deeper, broader and stronger. Friends band together for a common cause, like a ride to the airport or splitting the cost of a meal. The fun is more than you could put a price on.

Creators Syndicate

Stomping down the house

"The audience brought the house down" — I know it refers to wildly enthusiastic applause, but I was wondering whether it originated in some sort of house literally having been "brought down" — and if not, just why it's "bring down" and not "shake the rafters," or some such) and why "house" for "theater"?

As far as we know, no "house" was ever really brought down by "a furor of laughter or applause."

While "bring down" does have an archaic ring in the sense of "cause a building to fall down" typically, nowadays, what we "bring down" is something we shoot down.

And, lest you think it's rather absurd to imagine that mere applause could bring down a building, don't think "clapping" — think foot stamping. We've been able to trace the expression (which can be either "bring the house down" or "bring down the house") back as far as 1739.

So there you have it — the audience members aren't clapping; they are stamping their feet, as audiences are still known to do. As to "house" for "theatre," that usage goes back at least to the 1660s.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Write to: Merriam-Webster, 1118 North 4th St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Boyfriend's carefree attitude on public nudity alarms woman

Dear Abby: Six months ago, I met a great guy I'll call Joe. This guy is so serious and we have discussed living together. A couple of weeks ago, Joe spent the weekend at my place.

When I got up to prepare breakfast, I was shocked to see him walk through my front door after retrieving my newspaper — stark naked.

I live in a wooded area with few neighbors. Joe had to stroll down a long private driveway to the public street to get the paper. Anyone could have seen him. There are little kids in the neighborhood. To top things off, it was chilly outside and raining.

I asked Joe why he went outside in the rain, and he tried to shrug it off as no big deal. He replied, "I didn't want to get my clothes wet."

I haven't been able to think about anything else for days. I'm considering breaking up with him over this. Joe seems perfect in every other way. He's handsome, successful and even-tempered. I live in a small town and can't risk my reputation by being in relationship with the local flasher. He thinks I'm making a big deal out of something inno-

cent. What should I do?

— Mortified in Minnesota
Dear Mortified: First of all, count your blessings. I know a doctor in Minnesota who likes to have naked in the end. He says he gets a closer shave that way. Of course, he hasn't caught pneumonia yet or been reported to the police — and his wife is open-minded.

Dear Abby: Because you live in a secluded area, it's possible your friend didn't realize he could be seen by anyone — young or old. Put him on notice that when he's at your house, he is not to go outside *au naturel*. If he respects your feelings,

he'll abide by your wishes. If he doesn't, Nature Boy is not the man for you — and could be courting a "close shave" with the law in your community.

Dear Abby: I'm one of your male readers. I posted my profile on an Internet site for singles. The site contains a significant amount of personal information. All the information I entered was accurate except for one thing: I said I was six years younger than my chronological age.

I did it for two reasons: First, I didn't want to look so old, and second, to take excellent care of my body and my chronological age doesn't

reflect who I am. Second, individuals conduct a search based on only two parameters — the age range desired and geographic location. Thus, many women would never view my profile, because I would fall outside the age range considered acceptable.

I had sent and received several e-mails from a delightful young lady. At one point, she asked me whether the age listed in my profile was accurate. I immediately told her the truth and the rationale I had used for listing myself as younger. She immediately informed me that she was no longer interested in communicating with me because I had lied.

Was I wrong to list an age in my profile that wasn't accurate, even though I'm more youthful than most people my age?

— Looking For Love, Columbus, Ohio

Dear Looking: Yes, you were wrong. Although many people of both sexes lie online — about anything from height to weight to income level — the truth has a way of coming to light in the end. And when it does, the inevitable question that follows is: "Why LIE?"

Let's face it, this person *has* been lying about? That's a very poor way to start any meaningful relationship.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #8940, San Jose, CA 95128. Readers may write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.usps.com/dearabby> or by Press Syndicate.

Bad breakup may shoot down plans for a quality hunting trip

Dear Annie: My girlfriend and I broke up after having been together for two years. The problem is that I'm scheduled to go on a hunting trip with her father. We planned this trip more than six months ago.

I have tried calling her father's house for the past three weeks, but I get no response. I paid \$600 toward this trip and will lose the money if I don't go. I've called the hunting outfitter to see if they were still expecting us, and apparently they are.

I could drive to the hunting lodge separately, but I will have to stay in a room with this man for a week. My ex has threatened that her father is going to "kick my butt."

I'm afraid he will make my week a living hell. Is there any way I can make them repay me for the lost money? After all, they don't even have the courage to let me know what's going on.

— College Guy in Pennsylvania

Dear College Guy: We can't imagine how you'd want to go on this little excursion under the circumstances. Call the hunting lodge.

Tell the staff you cannot make the hunting trip, and ask if you can have a refund. If the answer is no, try again to contact your ex's parents, apologize for the

dilemma the breakup has caused and ask if at least part of the money can be returned. If they are honorable people, they will understand.

Dear Annie: I'm a 38-year-old man, married for 11 years, with a 6-year-old child. I've been unhappy in my marriage for a long time. I truly care about my wife's well-being.

I'm not in love with her anymore. I'm finding it harder and harder to act as if everything between us is just fine. Inside, I'm crying. I've mentioned to my wife that I'm unhappy, but I guess it didn't make much of an impression on her. Right now, I'm trying to make the best of things, and I don't fuss or cause arguments. I try to be nice and pleasant, but it's getting harder to hide my true feelings. I'm thinking about divorce.

— Carolina Blues

Dear Carolina: If ever a letter cried out for marriage counseling, it's yours. It is not unusual for marriages to go through periods of malaise or dissatisfaction. In a healthy marriage, couples work on the problem and make the relationship stronger. Neither you nor your wife took that step — but it may not be too late.

Talk to your clergyman, or

ask for a referral from your doctor, United Way or the American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy (aamt.org), 112 S. Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3061.

Dear Annie: I had an experience similar to the one described by "Grieving in Kansas," who kept receiving calls from telemarketers asking for her deceased son, about a year after her husband died. I got a phone call from a stockbroker selling my husband, "Dave," had called and requested information. He asked if Dave was home, and when I said no, he asked if there was a number where Dave could be reached.

I said, "Hold on a minute." I looked up the number of the cemetery and gave it to the salesman, saying, "If you'd like to talk, you'll tell him to call home."

The mental image of that man's reaction when he made that call stopped the wave of grief I was feeling. I still smile when I think about it.

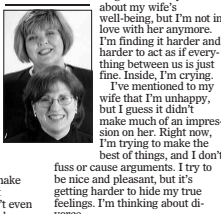
— Humor Helped

Dear Humor: We're glad this little practical joke alleviated your grief, although we doubt it did much for the salesman.

Dear Annie: Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Susan, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Ann's Mailbox, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



YOUR MONEY

Emergency highlights need to know insurance

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week, Cmdr. Brown talked about estate planning.

On Friday morning, my head was still spinning from the FSG meeting. I woke up, washed my face and started my morning routine before taking Jake to work. Jake was already downstairs in his uniform having breakfast and had already made my four-cup wonder breakfast for me.

After I dropped Jake off at the base, I headed back home.

Driving up the cul-de-sac, I saw Maggie was sprawled on the front yard holding her ankle. It looked as if she sprained her ankle on the step taking out the trash.

I parked the car and ran over to her.

"What can I do?" I asked.

"Order me a new right ankle... Oh my gosh! ... It hurts," she replied. "I guess I won't be riding my bike for awhile. Can you help me back up in the house? I'll need to break out my Ace bandage and put some

ice on this thing. Then I'll need to call SMHS for an appointment with my doc. Any chance you could give me and little Jimmy a ride if the doc is available?"

"Sure," I replied, "whatever you need."

"Sierra Military Health Services," she replied. "They coordinate Tricare."

I was still confused about what she was talking about but let it go and helped Maggie up and let her go into her house. We called SMHS at 1-888-999-5195. Her doctor had an appointment available at 11 a.m.

At 10:30, I loaded Maggie in the front seat of her car and put Jimmy, Maggie's 5-year-old son, in his car seat in the back.

As we drove, Maggie worried about not being able to take care of her home and Jimmy with a busted ankle. We talked about how all the never-ending responsibilities of running a home and raising a child required two good ankles. It made me think we sometimes take our good health for granted.

We arrived at the hospital 20 minutes

later. The doctor's office was on the second floor. I parked the car in the loading zone and grabbed a wheelchair in the lobby to bring Maggie in. Jimmy rode in her lap to the elevator, having way too much fun at his mom's expense. A gentleman took over for me and took both of them up to the office while I parked the car.

When I arrived in the doctor's office, the waiting room was packed. Maggie and Jimmy were playing in the kid's corner. I sat next to her and picked up a copy of "Green Eggs and Ham."

"How are you doing, neighbor?" I asked, putting my hand on her shoulder.

"Been better, thanks," she replied. "Thanks again for driving us. When I was lying there on the front yard, I started to stress out."

"You could help me with something," I said. "How does the military medical care thing work? It hit me when I was helping you back into the house. I realized I didn't know much at all. I used to be on my parent's policy, and then after I married Jake, I just remember him saying I needed my

ID card if I ever needed to be treated. That's about it."

"I also remember they told me at NEX that I didn't qualify for their medical plan because I was working fewer than 30 hours per week. I didn't think twice about that because I figured I was covered by the Navy."

"OK," Maggie said. "I can give you the basics, but you'll learn more from our annual Tricare presentation at the next Family Readiness Group meeting."

"Tricare?" I asked.

"Tricare is the military's health insurance," she replied.

About that time a medical assistant came out and called Maggie.

Next week, Susie learns about Tricare.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20859 or online at www.savvyonweb.com. This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: finance@stripes.osd.mil



Ralph Nelson

Prices don't spook Halloween revelers

Consumers going all out for fright

BY LESLIE EARNEST
Los Angeles Times

Halloween is the new Christmas.

It's growing faster, too, in terms of consumer spending. Christmas sales will be 4.5 percent higher this year than last, experts predict, while sales of Halloween goods will be up 5.4 percent. The National Retail Federation reckons that Americans will pay a record \$3 billion-plus this season on Halloween items such as hairy spiders, blow-up Draculas and plastic maggot that glow in the dark.

Sound spooky? Kathy Crawford thinks so, but in a good way. She's a manager at the Halloween Club, a store open year-round in Santa Fe Springs, Calif., that sells an unnerving array of pricey props, including a skeleton impaled on a pointed post, a fake dog that lunges from its doghouse as if to rip your head off and an "industrial wood chopper" with legs poking out one end and "flesh" and "blood" dripping from the other that goes for \$2,950.

"Look at the prices — people buy this stuff," said Crawford, who is greeted by waiting customers when she shows up for work on weekends. "This year, they're going all-out."

Increasingly, adults have been elbowing children out of the way to claim the creepiest holiday as their own. The trend will be pushed to the limit this Halloween because it falls on a Sunday, so the partying can start on Friday and continue throughout the weekend.

Nearly 60 percent of Americans will participate in the holiday this year and 56 percent of them will don costumes,

according to a poll conducted by shopping center owner Macerich Co. in Santa Monica, Calif. Roughly 21 percent of the respondents said they planned to outfit their pets.

"It's not one night out of the week anymore," said Scott Krugman, spokesman for the National Retail Federation, the industry's largest trade group. "It's like a monthlong celebration."

Halloween, which started out centuries ago as a festival for the dead, has reinvented itself over the years in the United States. In the early 1800s, it revolved around homey games and roasting nuts. By the end of that century, young people were taking the celebration into the streets, soaping windows and twisting street signs.

In the 1900s, schools, rotary clubs and philanthropic organizations joined forces to try to instill some discipline. "It seemed as though it was time by the late 40s and 50s, when trick-or-treating began," said Nick Rogers, a professor of history at York University in Toronto and author of "Halloween: From Pagan Ritual to Party Night."

Then adults began to see new opportunities for revelry, devising their own ways of celebrating and decorating. "What you've got by the 1970s or 80s, is a more diverse Halloween," Rogers said, "and a more commercial one."

Now, Halloween is a consuming free-for-all fueled by marketing and, according to social scientists, a desire to escape and the urge to have fun. Especially since Sept. 11, 2001, it has for some become a way to take a sledgehammer to pervasive fears about terrorism.

SEE Halloween ON PAGE 21



Donovan Gorham, 3, shows his mom a Halloween character at Spirit Halloween Superstore in Fresno, Calif., on Wednesday. Halloween spending will be up 5.4 percent this year, experts predict.

YOUR MONEY

Halloween: Retailers say holiday 'has just exploded'

HALLOWEEN, FROM PAGE 20

"The culture has lived with the threat of terror over the last few years and I think Halloween, in that context, may really have taken on greater significance," says Charles Sparks, a communications professor at Purdue University who studies people's reaction to horrific images.

"It's a holiday that gives people a chance to control the things that they are scared of."

Barbara Sky has it down to a science. The 56-year-old construction company owner decorates her home in San Bernardino, Calif., to the hilt every October and invites as many as 100 children, and some adults, to celebrate. Her front yard is filled with pumpkins, a Frankenstein's monster, an animated witch and a slew of skeletons, and the back yard is a cemetery littered with tombstones and dead crawling up from the earth.

Initially, Sky spent about \$1,000 a year as she collected props and decorations, but she's since pared her annual expenditure to less than half that. "The initial shock over, because you use the same things" every year, she said.

For some Americans, Halloween outlays of hundreds of dollars

aren't out of this world. And the experts say they're getting more for their money. The rising demand for life-size witches, mummies and skeleton brides holding dead bouquets means manufacturers are making more of them — usually in other countries, which has caused the prices to drop. Morris Costumes Inc. in Charlotte, N.C., began shipping "affordable" costumes this year, for \$74.95, Vice President Amy Morris said. On the other hand, it also sells a "Creepy the clown" for \$6,500.

"Halloween has just exploded," said Babloo Sawhney, vice president of First Imperial Trading Inc. in City of Commerce, which ships to 3,000 retailers throughout the country and also owns the Halloween Club. "More and more consumers want bigger props at better value."

It's all good news for merchants for whom Halloween has become an increasingly important bridge between the crucial back-to-school and Christmas shopping seasons. Specialty stores are sharing the benefits with a wide range of others, including discounters, drugstores, grocers and even hardware stores.

The Orchard Supply Hardware chain expects sales of Halloween goods to increase 25 percent this



Pumpkins depicting President Bush, left, and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry, are seen below another pumpkin depicting the White House on Wednesday at a carved pumpkin show in Salem, N.H. Halloween's popularity and holiday spending, have surged. Americans will spend a record \$3 billion-plus this year on Halloween-related items.

AP

season. Its Pasadena, Calif., outlet — an off-pace perched atop a black cloak that goes for \$21.99 — and sold out by the end of September.

"People really get into Halloween," said Kathy Sweeney, a spokeswoman for the hardware chain. "They just keep adding to

the collection, kind of like you do with Christmas; you keep adding to your ornaments, and the scarier the better."

Chris Sarvis surveyed costumes recently at the seasonal store Halloween Illusions in Westminster, Calif. The 26-year-old safety consultant looked serious as he pondered the prospect of be-

coming a pirate, having been a cowboy, wizard and Mormon missionary on prior Halloweens.

Adults dress up to "reclaim a portion of our childhood, if just for a few hours," the Huntington Beach, Calif., resident said. Or, he added with a slight smile, "It might just be an excuse to find a place and have a good time."

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
SP-500				
10,763.63	5,497.17	+10.86	+0.2	+12.5
3,392.28	2,743.46	+20.47	+0.8	+13.8
30.28	2,425.26	+29.8	+1.2	+18.4
6,788.1	5,812.25	+95.06	+1.6	+9.7
2,175.83	1,014.89	+43.11	+4.3	+24.2
1,163.23	1,018.32	+14.90	+1.5	+5.7
526.11	549.16	+23.05	+4.2	+6.5
696.42	583.88	+112.54	+19.3	+6.5
11,717.14	9,590.09	+2,127.05	+22.2	+5.6

NYSE	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Amgen	482.45	+8.00	+1.7	+1.7
Amgen	482.45	+8.00	+1.7	+1.7
Amgen	482.45	+8.00	+1.7	+1.7
Amgen	482.45	+8.00	+1.7	+1.7
Amgen	482.45	+8.00	+1.7	+1.7
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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Oct. 15)	107.00
South Korean won (Oct. 15)	1,118.00
Oct. 15	\$1.716
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.797
Canada (Dollar)	1.531
Denmark (Krone)	0.0086
Egypt (Pound)	0.252
Euro	\$1.2399
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7811
Hungary (Forint)	206.16
Indonesia (Rupiah)	70.455
Israel (Shekel)	0.4963
Japan (Yen)	109.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2946
Norway (Krone)	0.1319
Philippines (Peso)	0.042
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.750
Singapore (Dollar)	1.038
South Korea (Won)	1,144.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.743
Thailand (Baht)	0.011
Turkey (Lira)	1,492,577.00

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Cents and Sensibility

Phone-voting scams seen

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — When you register to vote, make sure you aren't signing up to become a victim of fraud.

The Federal Trade Commission warns that telephone scam artists have been taking advantage of the election year. The caller will ask for personal data and even financial information, claiming it is necessary to register you to vote or to confirm that you are registered.

Voter registration is typically completed in one of two ways: in person or by mailing in a registration form. The only calls regarding voter registration you should receive are ones alerting you to local drives.

Legitimate registration forms and organizations leading registration drives are provided for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile	
Gold	\$418.10
Silver	\$7.030

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.025
3-month bill	1.025
30-year Treasury	1.73

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

To our readers

Liz Pulliam Weston's "Money Talk" column will return soon. Stripes apologizes to her weekly readers.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

A Stern test for satellite radio
Chicago Tribune

Don't look now, but Howard Stern, of all people, has made everybody happy. [This month] the raunchy radio shock jock inked a multimillion-dollar deal to take his morning talk show from the broadcast airwaves to the fledgling medium of satellite radio.

Stern went to Sirius, the No. 2 satellite radio player behind the more-established XM. In a stroke, Sirius has become a weightier competitor, better equipped to pioneer a promising media technology. Wall Street sent Sirius shares up by 15 percent on the news. As Stern put it, "Sirius said to me, 'You're our Michael Jordan.'"

Now, for the sobering news: Sirius might not be able to afford Michael Jordan. XM and Sirius have lost tons of money as they have focused on gathering subscribers. To sign up, customers need to establish a special radio link in their home or car and pay a monthly fee for service. Despite its similarities to cable TV, it remains an unproven business model.

Get a college-aid education
Star-Gazette, Elmira, N.Y.

If only parents and students would take the time, they could avoid a mountain of dollars in aid available through the federal government. Yet a study by the American Council on Education indicates that moms, dads and their children are often confused and shrugging off the federal aid forms under two main misconceptions: middle-income families believe they make too much money to qualify for aid, and low-income families believe students need high SAT scores to qualify.

Those were some of the findings of the study that reached a number of startling conclusions, including one that said an estimated \$50,000 low-income students were eligible for federal Pell Grants — free money — but failed to apply.

The point is nothing worth nothing gained. Families who are too lazy to fill out the forms or give up under the assumption they don't qualify could be throwing away a golden opportunity to afford a college education. It just doesn't make sense.

Hopelufs lack fiscal restraint
Los Angeles Times

Here's one thing John Kerry and George W. Bush have in common: neither is sufficient concerned about the growing and general deficits and their threat to the economy. What is Ross Perot when we need him? Both candidates say they have a plan to halve the deficit over the next four years. But as exasperated moderator Charles Gibson pointed out in [the candidates' second] debate, it's hard to see how Bush or Kerry would get us from here to there.

Bush deserves being singled out for getting us into this mess.

It is fair for him to point out that the recession and the war on terror were bound to render meaningless the long-term, multi-trillion-dollar surplus estimates that greeted him when he was sworn in. But he should be condemned for sticking with an ambitious tax cuts that were billed as a rebate of those surpluses, even as the plus signs vaporized. It is one of the more damaging examples of the administration's unwillingness to alter course in the face of altered circumstances.

The Kerry campaign has not capitalized on the financial mismanagement as forcefully as it should, mainly because it has allowed its own wish list to get in the



CHRISTOPHER REEVE, 1952-2004

way of a clear pledge of fiscal responsibility. ... His deficit-halving plan ends up being as unrealistic as the president's. ... Kerry and Bush are also equally guilty of not addressing the long-term viability of Social Security and Medicare. But to get candidates and voters to focus on doom-and-gloom projections, we may just have to call Perot back into the fray.

Plans need a shot in the arm
The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

It's going to be a fine mess of a flu season. Maybe the record inability to give influenza shots will shake the federal government into addressing America's dangerously weak ability to assure vaccines to ward off a variety of illnesses.

The latest trouble occurred just as the flu season nears. British officials shot down a Chiron Corp. plant over concerns about contamination, cutting off nearly half the vaccine doses for the United States this year.

Health authorities are asking most healthy people to refrain from vaccination so high-risk people get shots. Mandatory rationing should be imposed if necessary.

Britain's suspension of flu-shot deliveries caught U.S. health authorities by surprise. But these kinds of problems are becoming regular occurrences with many vaccines.

The breakdowns raise grave questions not just about America's ability to deal with routine preventable illnesses but also about preparedness for a flu pandemic or bioterrorist attack.

No-draft pledge betrays reality
The Advocate, Baton Rouge, La.

President Bush and John Kerry are making political promises neither can guarantee when each vows there will be no military draft on his watch.

To do so is foolhardy at best. ...

Nobody can say with certainty that a new draft will not become necessary, nor should anyone rule out that option. The U.S. military is stretched, recruitment is lagging and nobody can predict the future.

None of us, including Bush and Kerry, knows what is going to happen in Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea or Iran, among other places, during the next four years. ...

Reinstatement of a formal draft might already have become necessary were it not

for the Guard and reservist call-ups and involuntary enlistment extensions. ...

We are not advocating reinstatement of the draft, nor are we suggesting, as rumored in some quarters, there is a secret plan to revive the draft after the election.

We are saying it is disingenuous, dishonest, naive or foolish to rule out the possibility of a draft.

Reeve made our spirits soar
Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

Superman died [last] Sunday. No, not the comic action hero, but the real one, actor and activist Christopher Reeve. Reeve, who achieved fame by playing "Superman" in four movies, severed his spine and was paralyzed from the neck down in a horse-riding accident in 1995. Nine years of physical complications resulting from that injury eventually took their toll, as he went into cardiac arrest on Saturday, then lapsed into a coma. He was 52.

Though confined to a wheelchair and dependent on a respirator, the 6-foot-four-inch actor actually grew in stature following his injury. He continued to work and make movies. He lobbied Congress for improved insurance protection regarding catastrophic injury. He helped raise millions for research. Where there was once no hope for people who suffered injuries like his, he regained sensation in some parts of his body, won back movement in a finger, learned to breathe on his own without the ventilator for short periods of time. ...

Most of all Reeve proved that life need not end with serious disability, that you can function with dignity, that you can continue to laugh and cry and love. This terrible thing happened to him, and yet he made the very best of it. Remember that the next time some minor irritation seems the end of the world. ...

And remember Christopher Reeve, a super man and an inspirational one.

Swing states can't swing costs
The Post and Courier, Charleston, S.C.

President Bush and Sen. John Kerry are paying frequent visits to a dozen or so "battleground states" for obvious political reasons. Thus, they are virtually ignoring a more serious reality of the state, considering them either sure things or lost causes. ...

But don't lament this lack of attention too hastily.

From [Oct. 6] Wall Street Journal: "While the campaigns pay to rent party tents and halls, municipalities often get stuck with the bill for a variety of other costs, many related to security."

In Ohio, perhaps the most crucial "battleground" of all, several municipalities are suffering fiscal distress due to the seemingly relentless presence of Bush and Kerry. Cleveland, for instance, had already laid off 250 police officers in the past year as a result of a continuing budget squeeze. Local officials in those beleaguered "battlegrounds" evidently lack confidence in pledges from the Bush and Kerry camps to eventually reimburse them for those expenses.

Perhaps voters should share that wariness as the two candidates offer assorted promises of new government largesse while offering little or no explanation of how they'll be funded. After all, taxpayers ultimately must pick up Washington's ever-escalating tab.

Just casting until next storm
Pensacola (Fla.) News Journal

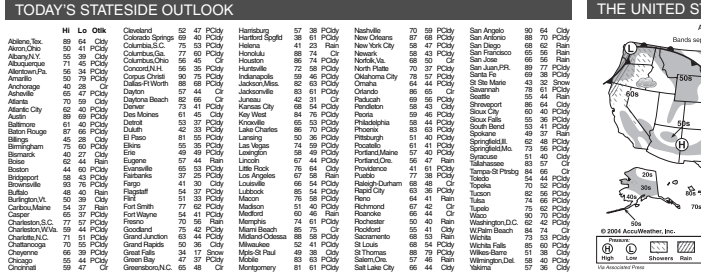
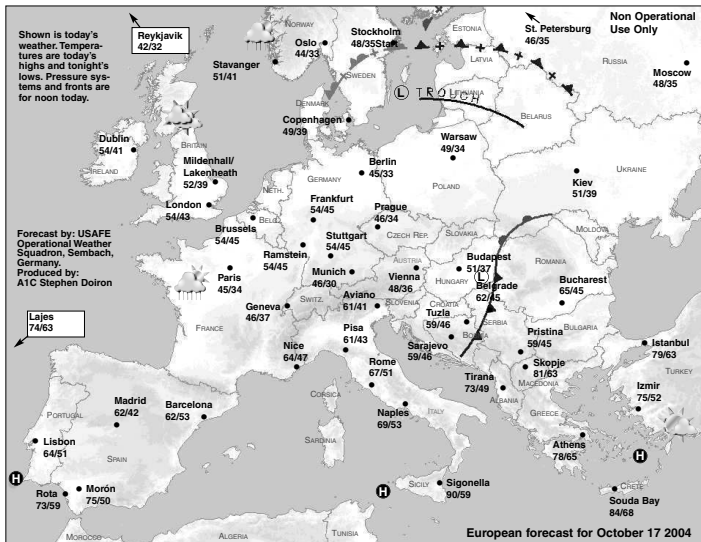
As the rebuilding of our barrier islands and beaches begins, as always in the aftermath of a hurricane, it is time to reconsider how we build on these fragile coastal areas.

If we do what has always been done before, here and elsewhere, we will simply rebuild right up to the edge of the water. And we'll rebuild bigger, more-expensive homes and businesses.

That demonstrates a resilient spirit, but begs the important question: What happens if the next hurricane is worse? Or if, as scientists say, hurricanes are becoming more frequent? ...

One rational response by the federal and state governments would be to use [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] and other means to begin buying — at fair market prices — waterfront properties and leases on barrier islands and other areas prone to storm surges and the worst storm winds.

By slowly pulling back from the brink, future storms would do less property damage. That would hold down insurance losses (and thus premiums), reduce the cost of repairs to public infrastructure, and even allow restoration of the primary dune line on barrier islands, providing added future protection for areas north of the Gulf of Mexico shoreline.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

BeneLux: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 50s with lows in the low to mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers in the morning becoming partly cloudy in the evening. Highs in the low to mid 50s with lows in the high 30s to low 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms and fog in the morning becoming partly cloudy in the evening. Highs in the upper 50s with lows in the upper 40s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s with lows in the mid 30s and low 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs the mid 40s to mid 50s with lows in the low 30s and low 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s with lows in the low 30s and low 40s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with rain. Highs in the low 50s with lows in the upper 30s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 60s with lows in the low to mid 40s.

Southern Italy: Sunny to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 50s with lows in the low 40s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with morning fog becoming mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Highs in the mid 50s with lows in the mid 40s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs will be in the mid 40s to low 50s with lows in the low 30s to low 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy with highs in the low 60s to mid 70s with lows in the low 40s to low upper 50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 70s with lows in the upper 40s to low 60s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <https://ows.sembach.af.mil> <http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Forecast Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Sunday

AFN-Pacific, 1:30 a.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Nextel Cup, IAW-GM Quality 500. **AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.** — Baseball: NLCS, Game 4, N.Y. Yankees at Boston. **AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.** — Baseball: ALCS, Game 4, N.Y. Yankees at Boston. **AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.** — College football: Tennessee at Mississippi (joined in pregame).

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. — NBA pregame: Sacramento vs. Houston at NBA. **AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.** — Baseball: NLCS, Game 3, Los Angeles at Houston (died). **AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.** — College football: Virginia Tech at Wake Forest (died).

AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m. — College football: Wisconsin at Purdue (died). **AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.** — College football: NFL San Diego at Atlanta. **AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.** — NFL: Seattle at New England.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. — NFL: Carolina at Philadelphia. **AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.** — NFL: Green Bay at Detroit. **AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.** — Baseball: ALCS, Game 5, necessary, N.Y. Yankees at Boston.

AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m. — Baseball: ALCS, Game 5, necessary, N.Y. Yankees at Boston. **AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.** — NFL: Denver at Oakland (ALCS is over).

AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m. — NFL: Pittsburgh at Dallas. **AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.** — Baseball: ALCS, Game 5, necessary, N.Y. Yankees at Boston.

AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m. — NFL: Denver at Oakland (ALCS is over).

Monday

AFN-Pacific, 1:30 a.m. — Baseball: NLCS, Game 4, L.A. Dodgers at Houston. **AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.** — Baseball: NLCS, Game 4, L.A. Dodgers at Houston. **AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.** — Baseball: Minnesota at New Orleans.

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. — Auto racing: IRL, Chevy 300 (died). **AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.** — College football: Chrysler Classic at Kentucky, Ford round (died).

AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m. — Baseball: NLCS, Game 4, L.A. Dodgers at Houston (died). **AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.** — NFL: Denver at Oakland (ALCS is over).

All times are Central European Time due to indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Sunday broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.mysfn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	0	1.000	98	63
N.Y. Jets	4	0	1.000	98	63
Miami	0	5	0.000	42	87

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	4	1	0.800	159	105
Houston	3	2	0.600	118	72
San Diego	3	2	0.600	118	72

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	3	2	0.600	112	94
Baltimore	3	2	0.600	97	79
Cincinnati	1	3	0.250	65	96

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	3	0	1.000	99	74
San Diego	3	0	1.000	148	148
Kansas City	2	3	0.400	89	110

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	4	0	1.000	107	57
N.Y. Giants	4	0	1.000	104	72
Dallas	3	2	0.600	97	91
Washington	3	2	0.600	71	85

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	3	2	0.600	98	96
New Orleans	3	2	0.600	92	127
San Francisco	3	2	0.600	91	85

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay at Detroit	3	1	0.750	78	78
Chicago	3	1	0.750	68	76
Seattle	3	1	0.750	149	149

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay at Detroit	3	1	0.750	78	78
Chicago	3	1	0.750	68	76
Seattle	3	1	0.750	149	149

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	3	1	0.750	87	87
San Francisco	3	1	0.750	87	87
San Francisco	3	1	0.750	87	87

Sunday's games

Green Bay at Detroit
Miami at Buffalo
Houston at Tennessee
San Diego at Chicago
San Francisco at N.Y. Jets
New England at Cleveland
Kansas City at Jacksonville
Philadelphia at Carolina
Denver at Oakland
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Indianapolis, Atlanta, N.Y. Giants, Baltimore

Monday's game

Tampa Bay at Miami
St. Louis at Atlanta
New York at N.Y. Giants
Buffalo at Baltimore
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay
San Diego at Carolina
Dallas at Cleveland
Tennessee at Minnesota
New England at Dallas
Dallas at Green Bay

College football

Top 25 schedule

Saturday, Oct. 16

No. 1 Southern Cal. vs. No. 2 Oklahoma State
No. 3 Alabama at Kansas State
No. 4 Auburn vs. Arkansas
No. 5 Purdue vs. No. 10 Wisconsin
No. 6 Virginia at No. 7 Florida State
No. 8 Florida State vs. UCLA
No. 9 Texas vs. Missouri
No. 10 Texas vs. North Carolina
No. 12 Georgia vs. Vanderbilt
No. 13 Tennessee at Mississippi
No. 14 Michigan at Illinois
No. 15 Oklahoma State vs. No. 23 Texas
AAM

No. 19 Minnesota at Michigan State
No. 20 Boise State at Tulsa
No. 21 Ohio State vs. Middle Tennessee
No. 24 Southern Mississippi at Alabama
No. 25 Ohio State vs. No. 25 Texas

Friday's scores

C.W. Post 14, S. Connecticut 7
UAB 41, TCU 25

Auto racing

SpongeBob SquarePants

Movie 3D

Friday

At Low's Motor Speedway

Long length 1.5 miles

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Golf

World Wide Play

Friday

At Westworth Club, West Course

Purse: \$4.8 million

Ernie Els (1), South Africa, def. Angel Cabrera (9), Argentina, 2 and 1.

Padraig Harrington (5), Ireland, def. Retief Goosen (13), South Africa, 2 and 1.

Lee Westwood (11), England, def. Todd Hamilton (10), United States, 3 and 2.

Michael R. Jensen (7), Spain, def. Steve Stricker (10), United States, 3 and 2.

Bernhard Langer (15), Germany, 2 and 1.

Retief Goosen (13), South Africa, def. Jeff Maggert (14), United States, 2 and 1.

Chrysler Classic

Friday

At Forest Oak Country Club course

Purse: \$4.8 million

Ernie Els (1), South Africa, def. Angel Cabrera (9), Argentina, 2 and 1.

Padraig Harrington (5), Ireland, def. Retief Goosen (13), South Africa, 2 and 1.

Lee Westwood (11), England, def. Todd Hamilton (10), United States, 3 and 2.

Michael R. Jensen (7), Spain, def. Steve Stricker (10), United States, 3 and 2.

Bernhard Langer (15), Germany, 2 and 1.

Retief Goosen (13), South Africa, def. Jeff Maggert (14), United States, 2 and 1.

Dean Wilson 72-72-144 E
Brian Bay 72-72-144 E
Jonathan Byrd 72-72-144 E
Duffy Waldorf 72-72-144 E
Gregor Tamberlin 72-72-144 E

Samsung World Championship

Friday

At Bighorn Golf Club, Canyons course

Purse: \$625,000

Yardage: 6,427 Yds (72-36-36)

Grace Park 63-67-129 15

Lee Westwood 64-68-132 16

Ernie Els 65-69-134 17

Padraig Harrington 66-70-136 18

Retief Goosen 67-71-138 19

Lee Westwood 68-72-140 20

Michael R. Jensen 69-73-142 21

Bernhard Langer 70-74-144 22

Retief Goosen 71-75-146 23

Jeff Maggert 72-76-148 24

Ernie Els 73-77-150 25

Padraig Harrington 74-78-152 26

Retief Goosen 75-79-154 27

Lee Westwood 76-80-156 28

Michael R. Jensen 77-81-158 29

Bernhard Langer 78-82-160 30

Retief Goosen 79-83-162 31

Jeff Maggert 80-84-164 32

Ernie Els 81-85-166 33

Padraig Harrington 82-86-168 34

Retief Goosen 83-87-170 35

Lee Westwood 84-88-172 36

Michael R. Jensen 85-89-174 37

Bernhard Langer 86-90-176 38

Retief Goosen 87-91-178 39

Jeff Maggert 88-92-180 40

Miami 56, Orlando 89
Chicago 103, New Orleans 100, OT
San Antonio at New York
Boston at New York at Albany, N.Y.
Indiana at Memphis
L.A. Clippers vs. New Orleans at Lafayette, La.

Sunday's games

Chicago vs. Miami at Little Rock, Ark.
Chicago vs. Cleveland at St. Louis
Detroit at Portland
Phoenix at Seattle
Denver at Portland

Houston vs. Second Round
Houston vs. Philadelphia at London, Ontario, Canada

Dallas at Orlando
Minnesota at Detroit
Los Angeles at Kansas City
Golden State vs. L.A. Lakers at Bakersfield, Calif.

Monday's games

New Jersey at Cleveland
W I T Pts of GB
x-MetroStars 11 1 7 45 60
Chicago 10 0 10 42 46
Chicago 8 12 9 35 42
New England 7 12 11 47 43

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference

W	L	T	Pct	GF	GA
Chicago	11	7	0.610	46	46
Chicago	8	12	0.400	35	42
New England	7	12	0.360	42	43

Western Conference

W	L	T	Pct	GF	GA
x-Kansas City	13	7	0.650	37	31
x-Columbus	10	9	0.520	40	38
x-Columbus	10	9	0.520	40	38
Dallas	10	9	0.520	40	38

Notes: Three points for victory, one point for a draw.

Saturday's game

Chicago at Kansas City
San Jose at Dallas
Los Angeles at Kansas City
Columbus at Colorado

Sunday's game

MetroStars at D.C. United

Deals

Friday's transactions

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE — Signed free agent Darrell McDonald outright to 2 years of the L. Purchased contract of RHP Jaco Sanguinetti from the N.Y. Yankees.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Signed free agent to exercise their 2005 option on RHP Bob Wickman. Announced N.Y. Yankees have declined outright assignment to Buffalo of the N.Y. Yankees.

DETROIT TIGERS — Claimed OF Brian Gentry off waivers from the L. and elected free agent.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Exercised their 2005 contract option on OF Eric Soderstrom to exercise their 2005 contract option on SS Kristian Robinson. Announced N.Y. Yankees have declined outright assignment to Buffalo of the N.Y. Yankees.

PHILADELPHIA — Declined to exercise their 2005 contract option on OF Jermaine Dye and LHP Chris Hammond. Sent RHP Kirk Saubert, C Mike Rose, INF Esteban German, INF Graeme Downie, OF Brian Guzman from the A's and released free agent.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Declined to exercise their 2005 contract option on OF Jermaine Dye and LHP Chris Hammond. Sent RHP Kirk Saubert, C Mike Rose, INF Esteban German,

It's Mad, mad, from Midnight to March

NCAA champ Connecticut among schools beginning drive to a national title with Midnight Madness show

BY DONNA TOMMELLE

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Thousands of fans wildly cheered as the defending national champions Connecticut Huskies burst into the gym, each with a Hollywood-like introduction amid smoke, music and laser lights.

One player, however, missed all of that at 12:01 a.m. Saturday when college basketball practice officially started. Freshman guard A.J. Price remains hospitalized for an intracranial hemorrhage suffered nearly two weeks ago. He's been at Hartford Hospital since Oct. 4, and is slowly improving.

Coches Jim Calhoun made sure the crowd didn't forget him.

"There is one Husky not with us, and we don't know when he will be," Calhoun said. "But hopefully it will be sometime soon. By the time he's done here, he's going to be one of the greatest players in UConn history."

There was plenty of cheering at other schools, as well, as Midnight Madness was observed at such powerhouse schools as Kansas, Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina, Maryland and Michigan State.



Paul Wedrychowicz displays his unique headgear Saturday during Midnight Madness at Connecticut.

"This is unique.

You don't find this at too many schools. That's why it's such a spectacle, such an event, such a happening."

Tubby Smith
Kentucky coach

Calhoun is about to start his 19th season at Connecticut, which will be without All-American Emeka Okafor, Ben Gordon and Taliek Brown, the three 1,000-point scorers who led the Huskies to their second national championship in April. Replacing them isn't Calhoun's biggest concern right now. Price is.

"I have no idea what's going to happen in terms of basketball, nor do I care," Calhoun said. "I care that A.J. walks out of the hospital and we will handle it after that point in time."

Price was complaining of flu-like symptoms and a headache when he was stricken. His condition has improved enough that on Thursday he was moved from the intensive care unit to a private room. He's listed as stable.

His teammates have not been allowed to visit him, but have gotten regular reports from Calhoun. On Friday, they heard the best news yet.

"He's doing real well," sophomore guard Marcus Williams said. "He's talking, standing up and walking around. Hopefully, we'll see him soon."

Price's roommate, Antonio Kellogg, also a freshman guard, said the two had forged a tight friendship and Price's absence has been hard on him.

"I just keep him with me in spirit and carry him with me and remember why he is not here and send my prayers to him," Kellogg said.

At Maryland, coach Gary Will-

iams made his usual spectacular entrance, this time driving onto the court in a NASCAR vehicle belonging to Donnie Neuenberger.

"I'm not nervous at all. I practiced a couple of times," Williams said about an hour before midnight. "It's driving a car. A little different car."

Calhoun drew the usual packed house of 8,700 to the event in Memorial Coliseum. Next year, it might be moved to 23,000-seat Rupp Arena.

"This is unique," Wildcats coach Tubby Smith said. "You don't find this at too many schools. That's why it's such a spectacle, such an event, such a happening."

Joe Crawford, a member of Smith's heralded recruiting class, dazzled the crowd with a double-back reverse dunk and got a personal congratulation from actress Ashley Judd.

"He's been working on that all summer," Smith told the crowd.

Judd, a 1990 Kentucky graduate, then wandered onto the floor, microphone in hand.

"I'm Ashley," she said, drawing laughs. She then walked over to Crawford and shook his hand, flashing a movie-star smile.

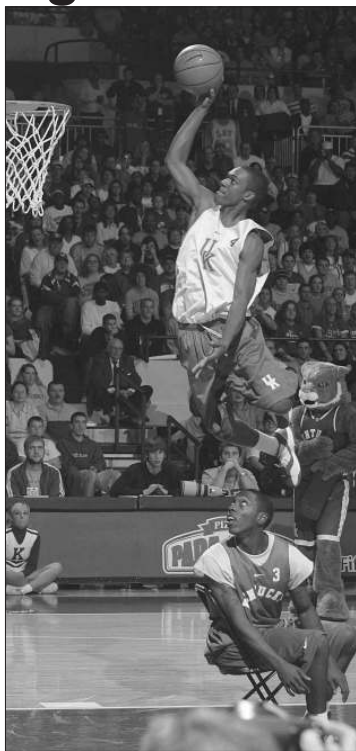
"Nice dunk," she said.

Indiana made a bit of a fashion statement as the Hoosiers donned new warmup shirts that featured the candy stripes that have been a trademark on their warmup pants.

Washington was one school that couldn't have its usual Midnight Madness. The Huskies have to hit the road for the first weekend of practice because of the world's richest man.

The Huskies will begin pre-season workouts at Evergreen College in Olympia, Wash., because Washington's gym is being used for an important campus fund-raiser. Microsoft chairman and co-founder Bill Gates is a featured speaker.

"This year, we wanted to do the Midnight Madness, but the man in the city — Bill Gates — is doing a million-dollar deal," guard Nate Robinson said Friday. "Hey, that's his thing. That's cool. We'll go to Evergreen."



Kentucky freshman Rajon Rondo vaults over fellow freshman Ramon Bradley for a dunk as the college basketball season officially opened in Lexington, Ky., with the Wildcats' Big Blue Madness early Saturday.

Davenport to become No. 1 despite semifinal loss

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Lindsay Davenport lost to defending champion Anastasia Myskina 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) Saturday in the Kremlin Cup semifinals but still will reach the No. 1 ranking next week.

Elena Dementieva defeated Elena Yekhanina 6-4, 7-5 in the other semifinal and will face Myskina in the first all-Russian final in the Kremlin Cup. Myskina is seeking her third title this season.

Davenport will reclaim the top spot in women's tennis from Amelie Mauresmo, who skipped the Kremlin Cup because of a strained thigh. Davenport was

Sports briefs

winded and had a headache in her loss to Myskina, the French Open champion.

"It's been a very, very long year and a long summer for me with a lot of matches," said Myskina, the player who has won a season-record seven titles out of 20 tournaments this year.

Davenport, seeded second, hadn't dropped a set in her four previous matches against Myskina. The third-seeded Russian returned well and forced the Californian into long rallies.

"I desperately wanted to win today," Myskina said. "It helped me a lot that Lindsay was feeling sick while I have just recovered from a fever."

Seibu leads Japan Series

NAGOYA, Japan — Kazuhito Wada hit a solo homer and Takashi Ide allowed two hits in seven innings Saturday as the Seibu Lions defeated the Chuni Dragons 2-0 in Game 1 of the best-of-7 Japan Series.

Federer, Roddick, Hewitt pull out of Madrid Masters

MADRID, Spain — Roger Federer, Andy Roddick and Lleyton

Hewitt — the world's top three ranked players — pulled out of next week's Madrid Masters in another wave of withdrawals from the hard-court tournament.

Federer, ranked No. 1 and winner of three Grand Slam events this year, cited personal reasons and fatigue, organizers said. Roddick, No. 2, cited tendinitis in his left knee and Hewitt withdrew for personal reasons.

No. 6 Carlos Moya also withdrew because of a shoulder injury. Guillermo Coria, Gustavo Kuerten, Fabrice Santoro and Sebastian Grosjean pulled out earlier in the week.

The top-seeded player is now Tim Henman.

Canas, Lopez win in Vienna

VIENNA, Austria — Argentina's Guillermo Canas beat Tommy Haas of Germany 6-4, 6-3 Saturday to advance to the final of the CA Trophy.

The sixth-seeded Canas will face Spain's Feliciano Lopez, who beat Davide Sanguinetti of Italy 6-3, 6-3.

Shaughnessy loses

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Second-seeded Meghan Shaughnessy was hurt by poor serving and lost to 15-year-old Nicole Pavidova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 5-7, 7-6 (7-1) Saturday in the semifinals of the Tashkent Open.

Els, Westwood ahead in World Match Play

The Associated Press

VIRGINIA WATER, England — Titleholder Ernie Els overcame a dismal putting performance to forge a 3-up lead over an injured Padraig Harrington Saturday after 18 holes of their World Match Play semifinal.

Former champion Lee Westwood led Miguel Angel Jimenez 3-up halfway through the other semifinal, scoring an eagle-3 from 35 feet at the 12th and adding three successive birdies from the 15th to break open a tight contest.

Golf roundup

Earlier Saturday, Jimenez ended the challenge of his Ryder Cup captain Bernhard Langer on the 35th hole to earn his place in the final four.

Els missed six times from between five and eight feet over the first 16 holes. The first four stopped him from winning holes, the last two five-footers cost him the 15th and 16th and saw his lead reduced from 4-up to 2-up.

"I struggled to get to grips with the quicker pace more than anything," Els said.

Harrington injured his right thumb when his hand smashed into a tree on a follow-through Friday and he admitted he was 50-50 about playing the semifinal until he got to the practice range Saturday.

"I practiced with the thumb of the club and it's awkward chipping and putting," he said. "As it turned out, it was the short game that cost me more than the long game."

Fatigue may be Jimenez' problem against Westwood.

"I feel my legs want to go in different directions at the moment. I am tired but I still have a chance," he said having earlier finished off his match against Langer.

"Bernhard played probably the best he



Ernie Els celebrates a birdie putt on the seventh hole during the HSBC World Match Play Championship on Saturday.

played in the match and I thought we were heading for extra holes," the Spaniard said.

Langer was pleased to make the match close.

"I fought hard. I was playing a lot better this morning," said the German, playing in his first event after a lengthy break caused by a wrist injury and the Ryder Cup captaincy.

"I need to work on my putting. I missed a few short ones and you can't afford to miss too many six-footers."

Jimenez and Langer, who upset World No. 1 Vijay Singh at the 37th hole in the rain-delayed first round Friday, resulted in their delayed match on the 29th green with

the Spaniard 3-up overnight.

Geiberger holds 1-stroke lead

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Brent Geiberger used a heat wrap to quell discomfort in his ailing hip and shot a bogey-free 67 Friday to give him a one-shot lead after the second round of the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro. His 11-under 133 was one shot better than 2001 PGA champion David Toms (65), Tom Pernice Jr. (68) and journeyman Jeff Bredant (66).

"It's only Friday," Geiberger said. "It's one of those things you just don't get too caught up in, especially with the holes coming in. You start thinking about other things, you can make a 6 or a 7 out here in a hurry."

At 144th on the U.S. PGA Tour money list, he needs a good week to avoid returning to qualifying school for the first time since 1996. Geiberger's lone career victory came at Hartford in 1999 — the only previous time he played in the last group on a weekend — and injuries have hampered him the past two years.

His best finish of 2004 is a tie for 14th at the Texas Open, and a victory here would match the one his father, Al, earned in 1976.

He and the rest of the field faced much more difficult conditions Friday, particularly in the afternoon when the wind kicked up and made club selection a guessing game. Fortunately, an early morning shower left the greens soft and receptive.

"It was tough, and it seemed to get worse as the round went on," said Toms, who tied Jerry Kelly for low round among the leaders. "It was a good score considering the conditions."

Kelly joined first-round leader Jason Dufner (70), Jose Olguin (67), Tom Lehman (66) and Bo Van Pelt (69) in a group two shots behind the Spaniard. The Indian Marylander had a 70 and fell five shots

back.

Davis Love III, who redesigned the greens at Forest Oaks Country Club before year's tournament, finished at even-par 144 and missed the cut by three shots.

Park pulls away from field

PALM DESERT, Calif. — Grace Park followed her sensational first round with a steady, 5-under 67 Friday and opened a four-shot lead midway through the Samson World Championship.

Park, who had perhaps the best round of her career with a 62 to begin the tournament, went to 15-under 129 through 36 holes at Bighorn Golf Club.

Shi Hyun Ahn, like Park a native of South Korea, and Karen Stupples matched 65s and were tied for second.

Three-time tournament champion Annika Sorenstam shot 68 and was tied for fourth, five shots off the lead, with Cristie Kerr (68), Lorena Ochoa (68) and Catriona Matthew (70).

Sorenstam, who had three birdies and one eagle, finished with a three-putt bogey on the final hole.

Amateur Michelle Wie matched par and was 17 shots back through two rounds. Wie, a 10th-grader in Honolulu who turned 15 on Monday, was ahead of only Laura Davies (147) in the select 20-player field.

Four tied at SBC Championship

SAN ANTONIO — Tom Kite, even after the front nine, made five birdies over his next seven holes to tie the SBC Championship, the opening round of the SBC Championship.

"That left Kite, who has one victory on the Champions Tour this year, in a tie for the lead with playing partner Tom Jenkins, Dave Stockton and James Mason."

Jim Thorpe and Mark McNulty were one shot back, while points leader Hale Irwin and 2002 champion Dana Quigley were in a group of 13 at 68 at the Oaks Hills Country Club.

Bid to bar Expos' move gets hearing in federal court

The Associated Press

MIAMI — A hearing on the lawsuit aimed at blocking the Montreal Expos' move to Washington, D.C. will be held in Miami the day before the capital's city council is scheduled to vote on millions of dollars in renovations to RFK Stadium to make it ready for next

MLB briefs

season. U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro-Benages on Friday set

Dec. 6 for the hearing on the motion for a preliminary injunction against the move sought by 14 former limited partners in the Expos.

The judge left open the possibility she would rule from the bench at the end of the hearing.

The partners sued in Miami federal court in July 2002 claiming major league baseball and commissioner Bud Selig fraudulently conspired with former Expos principal owner Jeffrey Loria to eliminate Montreal and allow him to buy the Florida Marlins. The injunction would halt the Expos' move pending trial on the merits of their claims.

But a three-member arbitration panel's ruling expected by Nov. 15 may make the hearing moot.

Jeffrey Kessler, attorney for the minority partners, told the judge at Friday's status conference that if the arbitrators were to rule conclusively against the partners it is "very unlikely we'll proceed with the motion for preliminary injunction."

Loria and Marlins president David Samson, also a defendant in the suit, and the minority part-

ners were told in 2002 to resolve their dispute through arbitration. Major league baseball and Selig were not parties in the arbitration.

The arbitrators ended the hearing last Aug. 18 and said they planned to release their findings and rulings by Nov. 15.

The Dec. 6 hearing will leave Loria and Samson on the sidelines since it will only concern whether the Expos will be blocked from leaving Montreal.

The Washington city council is scheduled to vote Dec. 7 on spending \$10 million to \$15 million on RFK renovations.

The minority partners sued after the Expos were bought in 2002 for \$120 million by baseball's top two teams, freeing Loria to buy the Marlins.

Guzman eligible for free agency

MINNEAPOLIS The Minnesota Twins declined their 2003 option on shortstop Cristian Guzman's contract Friday, making him eligible for free agency.

Guzman, who would've made \$5.5 million next year, hit .274 with eight home runs and 46 RBIs in his sixth major league season. He has been plagued by injuries since being named to the All-Star team in 2001.

A's decline option on Dye

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oak-

land Athletics declined their contract options for next season on outfielder Jermaine Dye and left-hander Chris Hammond on Friday.

Dye batted .265 with 23 homers and 80 RBIs last season, and the A's decided the on-injured slugger wasn't worth his \$14 million mutual option for 2005. He will receive a \$1.5 million buyout.

Dye played just 65 games in 2002 after breaking his leg with a foul ball in the 2001 playoffs. He hit just .231 after the All-Star break last season, and sprained his left thumb and missed several important games for Oakland's playoff hopes.

Mets interview Jaramillo

NEW YORK — Texas Rangers hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo interviewed with the New York Mets on Friday, the second candidate to apply for the managerial opening since the firing of Art Howe.

The 54-year-old Jaramillo met with Mets general manager Omar Minaya, a longtime friend, and assistant GM John Ricco.

The Mets expect to interview New York Yankees bench coach Willie Randolph on Monday and former Anaheim Angels manager Terry Collins on Tuesday, Minaya said.

Former Toronto Blue Jays manager Carlos Torres also interviewed with the Mets last Friday.

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Extreme

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New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera has three World Series rings and 31 career postseason saves.

Arms: Yankees rotation rounding into top form

ARMS, FROM BACK PAGE

"Somebody has to go out and pitch," Torre said. "You do what you can at this time of the year. Teams trying to get to the World Series, they have to find a way to get it done."

The Yankees are doing that. Their rotation, which was in disarray in the middle of the season, is getting better.

Kevin Brown, scheduled to start Saturday, appears to have overcome his many ailments this season, the most recent a broken hand caused by punching a clubhouse wall. Brown gave up one run in six innings during a playoff victory against Minnesota.

Jon Lieber is 6-0 with a 2.85 ERA in his past seven starts. Mussina has had two good playoff starts and is 4-1 with a 2.59 ERA in his past eight starts.

And the Yankees will get Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez back this weekend.

Hernandez had his first start of

these playoffs pushed back, probably to Sunday, because of Friday's rainout. Hernandez did not start in the series against the Twins because of a tired arm, related to his return from shoulder surgery in May 2003.

Hernandez was 8.0 with a 2.51 ERA in 13 starts before finishing the season with two poor outings. The Yankees believe the 15-day layoff allowed Hernandez to regain his arm strength.

"This is like a war," an overly dramatic Hernandez said through a translator. "They can injure you, but what's important is that you don't die."

In Hernandez, the Yankees get a pitcher who is 9-3 with a 2.51 ERA in 16 career postseason appearances.

The Red Sox have replaced Schilling with Derek Lowe, who was 14-12 with a 5.42 ERA during the regular season. Lowe was 2-3 with a 9.28 ERA in five starts against the Yankees this season.

The rich really do get richer.

Red Sox not ready to give up on injured Schilling just yet

BY JIMMY GOLEN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — With a balky ankle and tight shoes, Curt Schilling took the mound on Friday, throwing batting practice-speed pitches in the bullpen in steady rain.

And that was reason enough for the Boston Red Sox to be optimistic.

"He actually did pretty well — well enough where we're just leaving the door open for his season not to be over," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said Friday night after Game 3 of the ALCS was postponed by rain. "But that's the extent of it right now."

Boston trails 2-0 in the best-of-seven series against the New York Yankees. The game, if it's necessary, was rescheduled for Monday, but when the series resumes on Saturday the Red Sox will have a better idea whether their ace has made his last appearance in the playoffs.

"This is the first step, and the next step is to see how he shows up [Saturday]," Francona said. "And from there, then we'll see. ... The door hasn't been closed, but that's where we're at."

Schilling, who led the major leagues with 21 wins, lasted just three innings and 58 pitches while allowing six runs in Boston's 10-7 loss in Tuesday night's series opener. It was his poorest postseason performance since 1993.

Red Sox doctors said the sheath that covers two tendons in Schilling's right ankle is torn, allowing one of the tendons to slip out of its groove and rub against a bone. Schilling wasn't uncomfortable while pitching Tuesday because he was injected with a painkiller, but he wasn't able to push off the mound with his right leg, costing him velocity.

Schilling had a special high-top cleat that would add sup-

port to his ankle and keep the tendon from moving. Two hours before the scheduled start of Game 3, he threw long toss in the outfield, then threw for about 15 minutes in the Red Sox bullpen, changing from high-top to low-top shoes to find the right fit.

"It worked good. It just hurt his toes," Francona said. "All that stuff and we got the wrong size."

Schilling has not been available for comment on either Thursday or Friday, but he called a local talk radio station on Thursday to say, "If I can't pitch without altering my mechanics, then we're going to have to win a World Series without me."

But Schilling's availability is crucial to Boston's hopes of making it past the Yankees to the World Series.

With the rainout, Bronson Arroyo was slated to pitch in Game 3 on Saturday, Tim Lincecum on

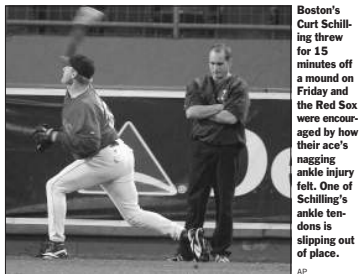
Sunday, Derek Lowe on Monday in Game 5 — the game that had been Schilling's to pitch.

That would have Pedro Martinez pitching on Tuesday in Game 6. If the series goes seven games and Schilling is not available, Arroyo, a 27-year-old without a full season in the majors, might have to pitch Game 7 at Yankee Stadium on short rest.

"Curt won 21 games and we won 90-something (98), so guys have some pretty good guys," pitching coach Dave Wallace said. "I'm sure Curt would tell you the same thing. We've got some guys that are looking to step up."

If Martinez were brought back for Game 5 it would be on his normal four days' rest. But that would force Lowe to pitch in Yankee Stadium instead of at home. He has an 8-4 record with a 4.55 ERA at home and a 6-8 mark with a 6.21 ERA on the road this year.

"We are trying to win the series," Francona said. "That will be how we make our decision, solely; not to extend the series, to get to a certain game, or based on trying to win four games."



Boston's Curt Schilling threw for 15 minutes off a mound on Friday and the Red Sox were encouraged by how he pitched. The Sox's nagging ankle injury felt. One of Schilling's ankle tendons is slipping out of place.

Festive atmosphere fills dreary Boston

BY TOM YANTZ

The Hartford Courant

BOSTON — The sidewalks on Lansdowne Street were filled with tents, sleeping bags and lawn chairs Friday. Fans emerged from their temporary homes to throw baseballs and footballs in the area below the Green Monster seats at Fenway Park, four hours before the scheduled Game 3 of the Boston Red Sox-New York Yankees series.

"Why are we waiting in line? Why? Dedication. We all want to see the Sox," said Dave Millette, 48, of Key West, Fla. "I've been here since Thursday morning. My mother lives up in Rockland (Mass.) State."

Millette was the first in line outside Gate C. About 300 fans were lined up behind him. All were waiting and hoping to buy a ticket. But the game was sold out.

"Corporations, other teams turn the tickets back in," said Abel Russell, who had driven down Thursday from Bangor, Maine. "Then they're put up for sale. One ticket a person. You buy it at face value and then go right in. This is an improve-

ment from last year when you could buy two and then some people went out and scalped them. You can't do that this year."

Russell, a restaurant manager, said he was able to get two tickets for Game 4 of last year's ALCS.

Russell and his friend Matt Ceban, also from Bangor, slept in Russell's car Thursday night.

Millette, nicknamed "Captain Dave," wrote numbers with a red marker on the right hands of those behind him. Russell was No. 5, and Jeff Carson of Westford, Mass. was No. 11.

"If someone came in late and tried to sneak in up front — you know, just trying to blend in there — well, let's just say it wouldn't happen," Russell said. "I would guess that person would be injured."

Though the sky was dreary and the Red Sox trailed the Yankees 2-0, the atmosphere was festive.

A Red Sox comeback and profanity-laced descriptions of the Yankees were the talk in this part of town.

Visitors could justifiably question the en-

deavor. After all, it was a wait of 30 hours outdoors — the temperature dipped into the 40s Thursday night — with only a chance to purchase a ticket.

"We love the Sox," said Joshua Loughnort, a self-employed carpenter who has been in town since the end of the regular season. "I got a ticket for the last game of the Angels series last Friday. That's why we do this."

There even was a Yankees fan in line. "I drove from Syracuse. I did the same thing last year for the LCS and I saw Games 4 and 5," said Joshua Loughnort, wearing a military fatigue Yankees hat.

"I got a little scared [Thursday night]," said Loughnort, No. 15 in line. "Some Red Sox fans came by and I thought I'd get something poured on me or they'd jump me. But everything got cool. I've got this Ted Williams shirt on, which has helped out matters."

When the gates opened at 6:20 p.m. EDT, Captain Dave led his followers through Gate C. There were a few tickets available. Captain Dave, Russell and Loughnort were among the fortunate ones to buy them. But at 8:05 p.m., the game was postponed.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

American League	Wednesday, Oct. 17
New York 10, Boston 7	Wednesday, Oct. 13
New York 3, Boston 1	Friday, Oct. 15
New York at Boston, p.d., rain	New York leads series 2-0
Saturday, Oct. 16	
New York (Bronx 10-9)	Arroyo 10-9
Sunday, Oct. 17	
New York (Hershey 8-2)	at Boston (Wakefield 12-10)
Monday, Oct. 18	
New York (Mussina 12-9)	at Boston (Lowe 14-12 or Martinez 16-8, if necessary)
Tuesday, Oct. 19	
Boston at New York, if necessary	Wednesday, Oct. 20
National League	Wednesday, Oct. 20
St. Louis 10, Houston 4	Thursday, Oct. 14
St. Louis 6, Houston 4	St. Louis leads series 2-0
Saturday, Oct. 16	
St. Louis (Maddux 15-8)	(Clemens 18-4)
Sunday, Oct. 17	
St. Louis (Maddux 15-8)	at Houston (Swartz 20-10)
Monday, Oct. 18	
St. Louis at Houston, if necessary	Wednesday, Oct. 18
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary	Thursday, Oct. 19
Houston at St. Louis, if necessary	Friday, Oct. 20
World Series	Wednesday, Oct. 21
National League at American League	Wednesday, Oct. 21
NL at AL	Tuesday, Oct. 22
AL at NL	Wednesday, Oct. 23
AL at NL	Thursday, Oct. 27
AL at NL, if necessary	Friday, Oct. 28
NL at AL, if necessary	Saturday, Oct. 30
NL at AL, if necessary	Sunday, Oct. 31

Defense? It's in the Cards

Errorless defense helps St. Louis build playoff edge

BY R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Dominant hitting has been the St. Louis Cardinals' calling card this postseason. They're averaging six runs and two homers over six games, five of which they've won.

What's gone largely unnoticed as they've built a 2-0 lead over the Houston Astros in the NL championship series is their defense. They're the only team left in the postseason yet to commit an error.

This is not to say that other teams are exactly butchering plays in the field. The New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox had committed one error apiece entering Game 3 of the ALCS and the Astros had five.

Still, perfection is something else.

"Our defense comes up big night in and night out," center fielder Jim Edmonds said. "So we don't have to win just offensively. We can get big outs when we need them on defense."

Four Cardinals won Gold Gloves last year. Edmonds is one of the best at pulling home runs out of the stands. Shortstop Edgar Renteria has great range and an arm to match. Catcher Mike Matheny has a good arm and is one

of the best at blocking balls in the dirt. Third baseman Scott Rolen is the best defensively that manager Tony La Russa has ever seen.

Right fielder Larry Walker has won seven Gold Gloves, giving the team a total of 22, including six for Edmonds, five for Rolen and two each for Matheny and Renteria.

Others can make the plays, too. Matheny, first baseman Albert Pujols and left fielder Reggie Sanders made defensive contributions to a 6-4 Game 2 victory on Thursday night. Matheny picked off Jeff Bagwell on a strikeout, producing a double play that defused a potential rally. Pujols swooped in on pinch-hitter Eric Bruntlett's sacrifice bunt attempt and turned it into an easy force-out at third that Rolen nearly turned into a double play.

And Sanders, never noted for his arm, tracked down Jose Vizcaino's drive to the gap, then wheeled and threw him out as he tried for a double. The key to the play was not slipping on wet grass in a game played in 48-degree weather and steady rain.

"I was able to keep my feet underneath me and not fall down," Sanders said. "My objective was just to get the ball in as fast as I could."

The Cardinals committed 97 er-

rors in the regular season, sixth-best in the NL. But so far, the postseason has been their time.

"You have to play different right now to win some games," Pujols said. "If we were better in the year, we need to get even better right now because if you make a mistake they can make you pay."

"You want to make sure you're on your toes."

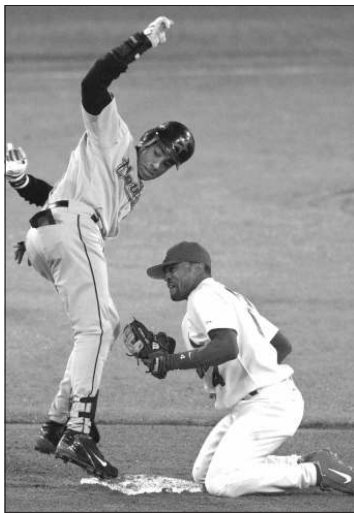
Two of the big plays came in the sixth to keep the Cardinals ahead 4-3. Sanders, who had six outfield assists in the regular season, threw out Vizcaino to start the inning. The next batter, Brad Ausmus, singled, and Bruntlett was trying to move him up a base.

Pujols was well in on the grass and ready to pounce when Bruntlett bunted.

"I knew that it had been raining a lot," Pujols said. "I just want to make sure I get there, get the ball and just give it a good throw and try to get an out, not try and get a double play."

Matheny's work behind the plate minimized leadoff walks to Carlos Beltran and Bagwell by Matt Morris to start the third. On strike three to Jeff Kent, he caught Bagwell straying off first.

Matheny also caught Morgan Ensberg trying to steal second in the seventh after Ensberg had tied the game 4-4 with a single.



Houston's Jose Vizcaino pops up out of his slide, having already been tagged out by St. Louis' Tony Womack trying to stretch a single in the fourth inning of Friday night's Game 2 of the NLCS. St. Louis won 6-4.

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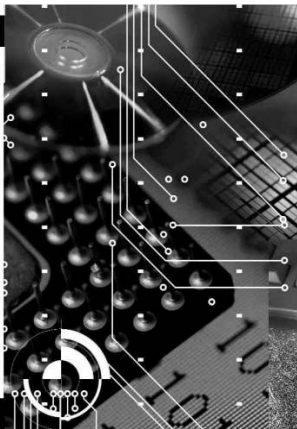
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For Broncos, no problem getting ready for Raiders

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

DENVER — After coaching the Raiders for a little over a year and against them for the bulk of his pro career, Mike Shanahan has never stopped picking up little nuances that make the trips to Oakland easier.

"I learned it's better to hang out around the 10-yard line instead of the end zone during warm-ups," he said. "That way you don't get hit by the batteries."

Yes, it's "Raiders Week" in Denver, that twice-annual rite of passage that allows the Broncos and their fans to work themselves into a lather about the team they love to hate the most.

"I remember when I first got here, a lot of people came up to me and said, 'We don't care if you win any game, as long as you beat the Raiders,'" linebacker Al Wilson said.

Of course, lines like that are uttered all over the league, anywhere a long-standing rivalry exists.

Just last summer, when Lovie Smith was hired as coach of the Chicago Bears, he said one of his main priorities would be to start beating the Green Bay Packers again (he already has once this year). Before Steve Spurrier began his failed two-year tenure with the Washington Redskins, he said beating Dallas would be at the top of his list (he won't do it).

In Denver, though, it never really needed to be said — not since



Denver Broncos at Oakland Raiders

10 p.m. Sunday
AFC-National

Game time is Central European.

the Broncos got good in 1977 and turned this into a rivalry, and especially not since Shanahan became coach 10 years ago.

Al Davis hired and fired Shanahan in 1988-89 and the firing left some lingering bitterness. Most notably, Davis still owed Shanahan a \$250,000 on his contract, but refused to pay it — even after an arbitrator ruled in Shanahan's favor.

"I guess you could say I'm not on his Christmas card list," Shanahan said, repeating a statement he's made many times when asked about his relationship with the colorful Raiders owner.

Of course, Shanahan came back to Denver as an assistant after his firing. Then, after leaving again for a few more years, he came back to the Broncos again as coach and led them to two Super Bowl victories.

Did he learn from his travels in Oakland, where he went 10-12 over one-plus seasons, including 2-1 against the Broncos? Of course.

"No matter what profession you are in, you always think when you get older you get a little bit more mature," Shanahan said.

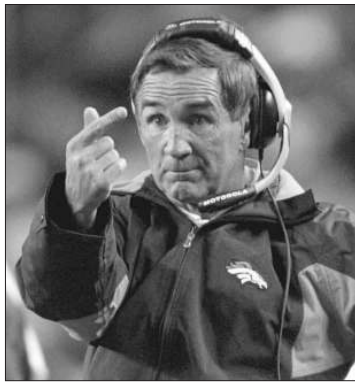
"You learn from the mistakes that you make, and you are always trying to learn. When you get in that position where you have some authority, you are always hoping that you make the right decision and you learn from your mistakes."

This rivalry isn't just about the coach against his old team.

The anger has been brewing pretty much since 1977, Denver's first Super Bowl season, and it became clear the season could be pretty special on a sunny October day in Oakland, when the Broncos defeated the Raiders 30-7.

Joe Rizzo intercepted three passes off Ken Stabler and kicker Jim Turner caught a long touchdown pass from holder Norris Weese on a fake field goal. With the rout on, Tom Jackson yelled at Raiders coach John Madden, "It's over, fat man."

Since then, there have been too many memorable moments to count: Gary Kubiak making an emergency start and leading the Broncos to a 22-19 overtime victory in 1994; Winston Moss showing John Elway out of bounds and under the Raiders' beam as Elway headed for the sidelines in 1992; former Broncos coach Wade Phillips getting booed off his own field after a 48-16 loss in 1994. Denver fans reliving the Raiders with snowballs during a victory in 1999, and Raiders offensive



AP

Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan still works up a special kind of intensity for the Oakland Raiders, the team that fired him and then stiffed him for the remaining money owed him under his contract.

sive lineman Lincoln Kennedy answering by throwing a punch at the fans.

The list goes on. Yet maybe one of the most intriguing facts about this series is how much the two teams have in common beyond that anything that happened on the field.

Since the Broncos turned this into a rivalry 26 seasons ago, the series has been swamped a whopping 21 times.

What does it mean? Nobody's quite certain.

But in 1985, the Broncos went 11-5 and failed to make the playoffs. That still stands as the best record in NFL history not to quali-

fy for the postseason. A victory over Oakland in either of two games would have made the difference.

Fighting for the playoffs in the last game of the 1995 season, the Raiders blew an 11-point lead against a Denver team that was already out of postseason contention and lost 31-28. Oakland joined the Broncos on the couch because of it, and suddenly, Denver's 8-8 record in Shanahan's first year as its head coach didn't seem so bad.

"The Raiders had a lot at stake," Elway said after that one. "It gets rid of some of our frustration, because it is on the road. And it's against the Raiders."

'The Trade' likely to play role in Chargers-Falcons outcome

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Three years after The Trade, neither team has any complaints.

The Atlanta Falcons got Michael Vick, who quickly led them into the playoffs and became an icon for the NFL with his dazzling skills.

The San Diego Chargers went with LaDainian Tomlinson and Drew Brees, along with Reggie Caldwell and Tim Dwight. Not too shabby, either.

"Let bygones be bygones," Vick said. "It worked out for both teams. They have a great running back and a good quarterback in Drew Brees, who's playing real well right now. And I think the Falcons got what they wanted."

On Sunday, the teams meet for the first time since the blockbuster trade. The Falcons (4-1) are trying to bounce back from their first loss of the season, while San Diego (3-2) is just one game off the lead in the AFC West.

Rest assured, someone involved in that 2001 deal will play a key role.

"I'd say both teams prospered quite well from the trade," Chargers coach Marty Scottenheimer said.

Atlanta set its sights on Vick after he put on in spectators' seats at Virginia Tech, then entered the NFL draft.

The Falcons were set to pick fifth, too far down to get one of the best college players



San Diego Chargers at Atlanta Falcons

7 p.m. Sunday
AFC-National

Game time is Central European.

to come along in years. So they called up the Chargers, who had the first overall selection, but were bogged down trying to agree on a contract with Vick's agents.

When the Falcons offered an attractive package of three picks and receiver-turned-specialist Dwight, the Chargers accepted on the eve of the draft.

Vick spent one season as a backup, then took over the starting job in 2002. He guided the Falcons into the playoffs, was voted to the Pro Bowl and set an NFL record for quarterbacks by rushing for 173 yards in a game.

With the picks acquired from the Falcons, the Chargers got Tomlinson, Caldwell and cornerback Tay Cody. After passing up Vick, they also used one of their own picks to trade Brees, forever linking him to the trade.

Cody started 11 games before he was cut last year. Everyone else acquired by the

Chargers is still contributing, no one more than Tomlinson.

He rushed for more than 1,200 yards as a rookie, then topped 1,600 yards each of the last two seasons. In 2003, he became the first player in NFL history to run for more than 1,000 yards and catch 100 passes in a season. By the time this season is finished, he figures to hold virtually every rushing record in team history.

Brees is in his third season as the starting quarterback, keeping the job even after the Chargers picked Philip Rivers in the first round this year. The veteran has played well in two straight victories and actually has a higher quarterback rating (100) than Vick (77.7).

And the others? Caldwell is second on the team with 17 receptions and Dwight is returning kickoffs, already bringing back one for a touchdown.

"I don't think that there is anybody who can really argue what we've done for our teams, and I think it's only going to get better," Tomlinson said.

He doesn't view his first game against Vick as an attempt to prove who got the upper hand in the trade, or show the Falcons what they missed.

"Like I've said all along, I play a different position than Mike," Tomlinson said. "It isn't because that it worked out the way it did. It wasn't like I was going to go to Atlanta."

Vick certainly could have been in San

Diego. He visited the city before the 2001 draft and was eager to play for the Chargers.

"I used to think about it all the time," he said. "But now Atlanta is my home and I love it. This is where I want to be."

Brees was the second quarterback taken in the 2001 draft.

Because he wasn't technically part of the trade, he doesn't spend a lot of time worrying about how he stacks up to Vick.

"It's fun to kind of follow his career a little bit, and the fact that this is the first opportunity we get to play against each other," Brees said. "I think the majority of the people are going to say 'Hey, this is the blockbuster trade, the Michael Vick-LaDainian Tomlinson deal.' I'm just along for the ride."

In an interesting twist, most of those who engineered the trade are no longer around.

San Diego coach Mike Riley was fired after the 2001 season and Chargers general manager John Butler died last year after a nine-month battle with cancer. On the Atlanta side, owner Taylor Smith sold the team less than a year after acquiring Vick and coach Dan Reeves was fired late last season.

Jim Mora, the Falcons' first-year coach, had to be brought up to speed on the deal that shaped both franchises so dramatically.

"I guess we're both winners," he said. "I didn't even know there was a trade until somebody mentioned it to me."

Seahawks out to break up Patriots' streak

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

In the first 232 minutes of its season, Seattle held opponents to 23 points. Then it allowed 23 in the next 11 minutes, blowing last week's game against St. Louis in overtime.

So now it's the one-loss Seahawks instead of the unbeaten ones who will try to end New England's NFL record 19-game winning streak Sunday in Foxboro. It might take a little luster off the matchup, but Seattle certainly is the best team the Patriots have faced since the opener, when they barely held on against Indianapolis.

The Patriots are favored by four points, a number that reflects the Seahawks' ability. That's the home-field advantage, or perhaps for the Seahawks' air mileage.

New England will have to play better this week than it did against Miami, when it won simply by showing up. And Tom Brady probably will need more than seven completions for 76 yards, which is what he had against the Dolphins.

Mike Holmgren was relatively calm after the loss to the Rams, although the Seahawks' coach acknowledged that in the past, he might have "erupted like Mount St. Helens."

Holmgren has won one Super Bowl, been to another and probably is one of the few offensive coaches in the league who can match wits with New England coach Bill Belichick.

More motivation for Seattle: Matt Hasselbeck's career spent seven seasons at the end with the Patriots. He was a ball boy for the team, and he went to Boston College.

The streak has to end some time.

The Patriots may say they don't feel the

pressure, but as with the 1998 Broncos — the last team to win 18 straight before New England — they know it's there.

That Denver team went on to win the Super Bowl. New England will take this loss and that win.

SEAHAWKS, 20-19

Carolina (plus 8½) at Philadelphia: The Eagles want revenge for the loss in last season's NFC championship game. How can they not get it with so many Panthers out, the latest All-Pro defensive tackle Kris Jenkins, who is lost for the season with a shoulder injury? ... **EAGLES, 27-10.**

Green Bay (plus 2) at Detroit: Even when the Packers are playing well and the Lions badly, Detroit often beats Green Bay at home. ... **LIONS, 28-20.**

Tampa Bay (plus 6) at St. Louis (Monday night): Another trend: Brian Griese plays badly after a good game. ... **RAMS, 17-6.**

Pittsburgh (plus 3) at Dallas: If Big Ben survives Tuna's defense, he should have been the No. 1 overall pick. ... **COWBOYS, 13-12.**

Miami (plus 6½) at Buffalo: Three of Buffalo's first losses are by a total of eight points. ... **BILLS, 11-3.**

San Diego (plus 5) at Atlanta: Drew Brees' passer rating is 100. Michael Vick's is 77.7. Vick has better legs. ... **FALCONS, 26-20.**

Kansas City (minus 1½) at Jacksonville: Two teams going in opposite directions? ... **CHIEFS, 23-20.**

Minnesota (minus 3) at New Orleans: No one can figure out the Saints, certainly not Jim Haslett. ... **SAINTS, 34-33.**

Denver (minus 1½) at Oakland: Mike Shanahan, fired by the Raiders in 1989, is 14-4 against them. ... **BRONCOS, 20-14.**

San Francisco (plus 10) at New York Jets: The 49ers have allowed 66 points in two road games. ... **JETS, 66-20.**

Houston (plus 6½) at Tennessee: The



Seattle Seahawks cornerback Ken Lucas intercepts a pass intended for St. Louis Rams wide receiver Torry Holt (81). Seattle takes on undefeated New England on Sunday.

Texans will put up more resistance than the Packers. ... **TITANS, 24-20.**

Cincinnati (plus 3) at Cleveland: Marvin Lewis over Butch Davis because Lewis has had a week to prepare. ... **BENGALS, 24-23.**

Washington (pick 'em) at Chicago: Good defense vs. bad offense on both sides. ... **BEARS, 10-6.**

Last game: 8-6 (spread), 10-4 (straight up). Season: 41-31-2 (spread), 53-21 (straight up).

Hands-on owner suffocating woeful Redskins

BY CHRIS HARRY

The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — In the five years since he bought the Washington Redskins franchise he went up worshipping as youngster in Maryland — Dan Snyder has fired or run off hundreds of employees, be them coaches, assistants, executives, players, whoever.

The next person he should target is himself.

Aside from bad karma — and the fish always stinks from the head down — there is just no other explanation for the run of multimillion-dollar flops and underachievement the midget mogul has subjected the once-proud franchise to since taking control of the team in 1999.

Snyder may spend money, but he's on the fast track to being the NFL's version of L.A. Clippers owner Donald Sterling. Everything he touches — on the field, that is — turns to failure.

Even Joe Gibbs, for crying out loud, who is now hearing whispers that the game has passed him by.

"I expect that," said Gibbs, 63. "I knew when I took this job that if I went headlong, that's one of the first things that would be said. There's only way to change it."

Yeah, but Snyder isn't going anywhere.

Commentary

Consider:

■ Gibbs, winner of three Super Bowls, retired after the 1992 season as one of the greatest offensive minds in NFL history. So far, his offense is averaging 14 points per game (29th in the league) and is minus-7 in turnovers on a team that is 1-4 with each game decided by seven points or less. Gibbs' clock management and replay challenges have been questionable. Worse, the Redskins have been outsmarted on two trick plays (against Dallas and Baltimore) that have been the difference in two home defeats. The 107 yards Washington's offense gained in Sunday night's 17-10 loss to the Ravens were the fewest by a Redskins team since Nov. 26, 1961.

■ The Redskins have turned the team over to aging quarterback Matt Russell, 34, they gave up a third-round pick to get him, then signed him to a \$43 million contract (with an \$8 million bonus). He looks like a gunfighter who has lost his nerve and his crew. Brunell no longer can throw the deep ball or escape a rush, which were his strengths with Jacksonville. In throwing for



Washington tight end Walter Rasky, center, is flipped by Cleveland's Warrick Holdman, left, and Earl Little during the Browns' 17-13 victory on Oct. 3. The Redskins average 14 points a game, 29th in the NFL.

just 83 yards last week against the Ravens, he averaged 4.7 yards — 17 yards per attempt.

■ Washington traded four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey and a second-round pick for running back Clinton Portis, who then was signed to a record \$50.5 million deal. The Redskins figured he could become the kind of ball-control maven Gibbs' wild-

ly successful former teams thrived with. But since rushing for 148 yards in the season-opening win vs. Tampa Bay, Portis has averaged 3.1 per carry, fumbled four times (twice setting up TDs in narrow losses) and isn't talking to the media.

In the meantime, it's worth noting that Denver — famous for making good running backs look

great — has received a 156-yard game from Quentin Griffin and a 193-yard game from Reuben Droughns. Neither is making \$50.5 million.

■ Remember that controversial \$35 million signing (with \$13 million up front) of restricted free agent wide receiver Laveranues Coles last year? Well, Brunell can't even get him the ball. And in a 17-13 loss to the Cleveland Browns, Coles made a first-down catch on a potential game-winning drive, then fumbled the ball away.

■ Defense was supposed to be Washington's biggest concern in 2004. New coordinator Gregg Williams — even with linebacker LaVar Arrington sidelined by a knee injury — has managed to field the No. 3 unit in the NFL. Against Baltimore, the Redskins intercepted three passes in the first half en route to a 10-0 lead. In the second half, the defense watched the score change to 14-10 without ever being on the field, thanks to a Brunell fumble and a punt return for a touchdown.

I've heard Kansas City, Green Bay and Tampa Bay being spoken about as the biggest disappointments of this young season. I can give you millions of reasons why such a conversation should begin with the Redskins.

Snyder, unfortunately, already did. Again.

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Boston's Pedro Martinez pitched well in Game 2 of the ALCS, but the Yankees have won 10 of the past 12 games he has started against them.

AP

Yanks winning the arms race

New York's starting rotation is tops among baseball's final four

BY GERRY FRALEY

The Dallas Morning News

BOSTON — October is the harshest month for starting pitchers. Bodies ache. Arms are worn out.

What worked in the summer is no longer there. The snap is gone. "You're pitching on fumes," New York Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

That is why the New York Yankees, leading the American League championship series 2-0, will finish off Boston and should win the World Series. A rainout of Friday's game at Fenway Park only delayed the inevitable and added to the Yankees' advantage.

At a time when the remaining clubs are desperate for innings from starters, the Yankees have emerged again with the deepest and best rotation.

Their rotation ERA for six play-off games is 3.76. Among the clubs that reached the playoffs, Minnesota has the second-best postseason rotation ERA (4.63). The Yankees sent the Twins

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Commentary

home for the winter last week.

Of the remaining clubs, St. Louis has the second-best rotation ERA (4.72). The starting staff of Boston and Houston each has a ERA of more than 5.00.

If the ALCS goes the distance, the teams will play on five consecutive days. The Yankees are far better equipped for that than the Red Sox.

"They've said we haven't had pitching all year," Yankees starter Mike Mussina said. "That's what everybody said, and we won 101 games."

The total is up to 106 wins. When the Yankees finish with 112 wins, the final total if they win the World Series, credit the rotation.

Some rotations get worse as October progresses.

Boston hoped to have ace Curt Schilling for as many as three starts in this series. Schilling is probably finished after losing the opener because of a dislocated tendon in his right ankle, a condition that will require postseason surgery.



AP

In two postseason starts, Yankees starter Mike Mussina is 1-1 with a 3.95 ERA. He has given up six runs, 11 hits and one walk while striking out 15 in 13 1/3 innings. He is 4-1 with a 2.59 ERA in his past eight starts.

"When the season started, all the talk was about Curt and Pedro (Martinez) being the one-two punch," Yankees center fielder Bernie Williams said. "It seems like it has turned out that when they have needed (Schilling) the most, he might not be

available. So that obviously is going to play in our favor."

The Yankees will take it.

They went through something similar during last year's World Series against Florida.

As the national anthem played before the fifth game, pitching

coach Mel Stottlemyre tugged on Torre's jersey. David Wells, the scheduled starter, might not make it, Stottlemyre whispered.

Wells pitched only one inning, putting the Yankees at a disadvantage they could not overcome.

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Shanahan's presence intensifies rivalry between Broncos and Raiders

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St. Louis' lineup gets headlines, but its defense is a big hit Page 29



Going for 20 in a row, Patriots square off against Seahawks

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